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## High-spending euro states face heavy fines

FROM CHARLES BREMNER  
IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN countries that fail to control their budget deficits after joining a single currency will face heavy and repeated fines under proposals to be put forward by the European Commission today.

Fines could accumulate beyond 1 per cent of Gross Domestic Product for states that persistently fail to correct excessive deficits after being ruled out of line.

The system of semi-automatic sanctions against high-spending

states has been designed over the past year, largely under German pressure, and is expected to be adopted today.

The so-called stability pact is deemed vital by Germany to ensure that the euro remains as strong as the mark after it replaces national currencies on January 1, 1999. But Italy, Spain and other countries making fierce efforts to squeeze through the EMU entry test have qualms about a permanent fiscal straitjacket.

A rush to austerity across Europe in recent weeks has raised the

prospect that most of the EU's 15 states will qualify to join the currency in 1999. Germany is increasingly worried that some members with shakier economies may — with effort and creative accounting — manage to squeak into the euro only to revert to bad habits once inside its zone.

Under the Commission's draft, which is likely to be modified before final approval by EU leaders in December, delinquent states would be given a ten-month warning if their budget deficits exceeded 3 per cent of GDP — the ceiling for

EMU entry set out in the Maastricht treaty. If such states failed to reduce the deficit, the Council of Ministers would order them to deposit between 0.2 per cent and 0.5 per cent of GDP to a non-interest-bearing account at the European Central Bank. A rising scale would be applied to punish gross overspenders more heavily.

States that exceed the Maastricht criteria for national debt would be subjected to a straight 0.2 per cent deposit. If a member state still failed to bring its deficit below 3 per cent in two years, the funds would

be seized and contributed to the EU budget as a fine and a further deposit immediately demanded.

The process would continue until the deficit was brought down.

EU ministers and Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the monetary commissioner, insist that the scheme is designed as a deterrent whose success will be proved if it is never used. However, the creation of such a disciplinary mechanism is sowing fears around Europe because it will further trim governments' sovereignty over fiscal policy — states will not be able to argue

that their national parliaments forced them to overspend.

The Commission's draft concedes that the sanctions should not apply in exceptional and temporary circumstances beyond the control of a national government, but an exact definition of those circumstances has yet to be resolved.

It could cover natural disasters, serious recessions or shocks such as the oil price explosion in the 1970s.

Although the German finance minister Theo Waigel had sought an even more draconian system,

German officials are pleased that the rest of the EU has swung round to a scheme privately dismissed as unworkable last year.

The Commission will also be issuing its proposals for reinforcing budgetary discipline in countries that aspire to EU membership but fail to qualify. Part of the system will be a new exchange-rate mechanism to harness currencies outside the euro zone to the single currency. The new-look ERM is backed by all EU states except Britain.

Leading article, page 23

## Ministers opt to extend handgun ban

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR



Forsyth: victory over cautious colleagues

AN ABSOLUTE ban on the most dangerous handguns, including semi-automatics of the type used by Thomas Hamilton in the Dunblane massacre, is to be announced today.

As expected, people will no longer be allowed to keep any handgun at home, but the Government is also going beyond the Cullen inquiry's recommendations and prohibiting the use of larger repeating handguns anywhere — except by the police and armed forces.

The Government intends to allow people to continue to shoot the 22 pistols used in Olympic competition and lower calibre weapons at clubs. (But even that might be forbidden if enough Conservative MPs support the approach agreed by Labour yesterday.)

As Cabinet ministers were considering their response to Lord Cullen's Dunblane report, Labour shifted its stance to favour of a complete ban on the ownership and use of any handgun by non-professionals. A number of Conservatives also support that policy and — depending on the stance of the Ulster Unionists — the Commons could well vote for the full ban when the legislation comes forward later this year.

Yesterday the Tory MPs Hugh Dykes and Robert Hughes signed a cross-party early-day motion calling for such a ban "in the interests of public safety". Mr Dykes said: "It is really to focus the debate very strongly on this growing perception amongst the public that nothing less than the complete prohibition on the private ownership and use of handguns will do."

Both the Government and

Labour would allow exceptions for professionals such as veterinary surgeons, the police, the military or seafarers firing distress flares.

Labour's change of stance came after Tony Blair met Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, and George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, yesterday afternoon.

Labour sources said

that the party had already been "seven-eighths of the way" to backing a full ban.

The only possible exception

had been for single shot handguns under .22 calibre but, having listened to police advice and public opinion, it was now likely that Labour would come out for a complete ban.

Labour has been clearly

been influenced by the emotional appearance of the Snowdrop campaign's Ann Pearson at the Blackpool conference two weeks ago, and the Conservatives are certain to accuse the party of blatant opportunism.

Labour, however, argued

last night that the Government had moved beyond

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ownership of guns only because of Labour pressure. The Government's position, while angering the gun lobby, will go some way towards meeting the concerns of anti-handgun groups and is a victory for Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, over more cautious members of the Cabinet, which yesterday spent 90 minutes discussing Lord Cullen's report into the schoolroom massacre of 16 children and their teacher. The response will be announced with the 200 page report today.

Downing Street said that the Cabinet had agreed "a substantive and very considered response". Asked if ministers were happy with Lord Cullen's report, the spokesman said: "He has done a very careful and thorough job and presented a long report which addresses a lot of issues."

The handgun ministers want banned include all large calibre pistols and revolvers which have a small but dedicated following in this country. Apart from a very few specialist weapons and antique flintlocks, the vast majority of modern handguns with calibres above .22 calibre are able to take several rounds, from traditional six-shooter revolvers to semi-automatic pistols whose magazines can hold 13 or more bullets.

Enthusiasts determined to hang on to their handguns may find it possible to have them adapted to take only a single shot or have the barrel replaced with one of the smaller calibre. Most, however, are likely to give up their sport in disgust as opportunities to shoot their weapons disappear.

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Breakthrough in Stormont talks overshadowed by acrimony over loyalist plan for Bogside parade

## Violence feared as Apprentice Boys announce march

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

FEARS rose yesterday of a renewed outbreak of violent sectarian clashes in Northern Ireland this weekend after loyalists announced their intention to march along a contentious section of Londonderry's historic walls.

The decision by the Apprentice Boys cast a shadow over the multiparty talks at Stormont where Unionists and nationalists finally reached agreement on an agenda early yesterday morning. The agenda, tabled jointly by the Ulster Unionists and the Social Democratic and Labour Party, downgraded discussions on the disarming of terrorists. This allowed the nine parties at the talks to outline their positions on wider issues yesterday before turning their attention to disarmament. The Democratic Unionists and the United Kingdom Unionists made clear their anger with the new agenda.

As ministers greeted the agreement, nationalists and Unionists in Londonderry clashed over the decision of the Apprentice Boys to march around the city's walls this Saturday, including a stretch overlooking the nationalist Bogside area. The loyalists, who were banned by the RUC

from marching along the quarter-mile section in August, also told the police that they intended to parade along the walls on every Saturday until Christmas.

Donchru MacNiallais, the spokesman for the nationalist Bogside Residents' Group, said: "I am not saying that the march won't pass off peacefully. But I am saying that in many ways people will regard this as a confrontational matter because the Apprentice Boys refused to discuss the matter with us."

William Hay, an Apprentice Boy and Democratic Unionist councillor in Londonderry, said there was little point in talking to the residents' group because they had refused to agree to a compromise over the loyalist march in August. He said: "The Apprentice Boys are exercising their civil and religious liberties to parade the historic walls of Londonderry. Surely an organisation that has shown responsibility should be allowed to celebrate their culture and their tradition in the way they have done for 300 years."

The tensions between the two sides yesterday served as a grim reminder of this summer's widespread disturbance between nationalists and Unionists in Londonderry after the loyalists' decision, which many nationalists condemned as provocative.



The Apprentice Boys in Londonderry on Saturday. Their decision to march around the city's walls has cast a shadow over multiparty talks

## Signs of hope visible on long road to peace

INCH by painful inch, a genuine peace process appears to be advancing. The language of "breakthrough" that accompanied the announcement of agreement between the SDLP and the Ulster Unionists overstates what has been achieved.

No settlement is yet in sight in Ulster. But the accord reached by Seamus Mallon and David Trimble goes beyond the clearing of a procedural obstacle. The agreement between Ulster's moderate Unionists and nationalists not to allow discussion over the decommissioning of weapons to impede talks may seem another concession to the IRA.

But the agreement seems less a surrender to republicanism than an outflanking. The last week has been a bad one for the IRA. Although in its

Agreement between the Ulster Unionists and the SDLP on an agenda for talks is less a surrender to the IRA than an attempt to outflank it, Michael Gove writes

military audacity the Lisburn bomb seemed an impressive coup, politically it has undermined the republicans. It provoked a strong personal attack on Gerry Adams from John Major and also led the Irish Prime Minister to denounce the IRA as "fascist". It unsettled loyalist paramilitaries but they have, so far, not risen to the bait by ending their ceasefire.

The respect across communities for the loyalists' discipline has been matched with disillusionment among "middle Ireland" that the IRA should

have started bombing in Ulster again. Moderate Irish opinion was of disgust and concern. IRA bombs in Ulster could soon trigger loyalist bombs in the Republic. The operational weakness of the Provisionals and their waning influence has made military defeat of the IRA a possibility, in the minds of some strategists, for the first time since the Seventies.

More important is their political marginalisation. David Trimble's willingness to compromise springs from the new mood among moderate

Irish nationalists. Neither Dublin nor the SDLP seem prepared, as in the past, to allow progress to be impeded by a desire to court the IRA.

Although John Hume, the SDLP leader, hankers after another ceasefire on almost any terms, the momentum is now with Seamus Mallon, his deputy, who has expressed privately his commitment to finding common ground with Unionists.

Dublin has joined London in insisting any new IRA ceasefire is "dependable" and John Bruton last week was at pains to assuage Unionist concerns, rejecting the notion that Irish nationalists were a "hostile monolith".

There are still a great many difficult issues to resolve but if those committed to democracy concentrate on working together, then there is hope.

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More than just features

## Fathers seek more time off at births

By RICHARD DUKE

THE tiredness and loneliness felt by many new fathers are aggravated by the lack of paternity leave in Britain, according to a survey published last night.

Of 420 men questioned by the Royal College of Midwives and the National Childbirth Trust, 93 per cent complained of tiredness after sleepless nights and 60 per cent of loneliness. Such feelings, the survey says, were compounded by the lack of paternity leave, which prevented them from being involved in caring for their baby.

The survey found that 47 per cent of men were not offered any paid paternity leave and 79 per cent were refused unpaid leave. Twenty-three per cent were given up to three days' leave, 14 per cent received four or five days with 4 per cent getting a week or more.

The survey concludes: "Today's new fathers want to be more involved with the care of their new baby and in order to do this paid paternity care needs to be widely introduced. Tiredness, loneliness and worry are dominant feelings in new fathers with very little recognition or support."

Mary Newburn, head of policy at the NCT, said yesterday: "Fifty per cent of parents are fathers but we conveniently forget that they exist and have needs and feelings too."

The Confederation of British Industry has so far resisted calls for paternity leave to be a statutory right. A spokesman said: "Our view is that it is an issue to be best tackled individually."

## Schools boycott 'incompetent' supply teachers

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A QUARTER of secondary schools boycott teacher supply agencies because they have sent stand-ins who are incompetent or even drunk, a survey disclosed yesterday.

Teachers sacked or rejected by one agency were readily taken on by others because the law did not require them to make police checks or take references, said Margaret Hodge, the Labour MP who carried out the research.

Her call for greater regulation was backed yesterday by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, which said children were being put at risk. The Government has decided not to back Mrs Hodge's Bill to license and inspect teacher agencies. Instead it brought in guidelines earlier this year recommending that thorough checks were made on supply staff.

By Goddard, the NSPCC's parliamentary officer, said: "This is a child protection issue and we want to emphasise those who seek to harm children are very well organised in this country and we must do everything to put in place proper checks."

Mrs Hodge's survey of Greater London secondary schools showed one in 15 lessons a week were taken by supply teachers. One in three head teachers said they had problems with supply teachers. Some were unable to maintain discipline, while others simply "babysat" classes.

Many supply teachers were from overseas and lacked knowledge and experience of the national curriculum or GCSEs. Four inner-city

schools with high numbers of pupils from ethnic minorities said that white teachers from South Africa had a racist attitude.

In one instance a head teacher who greeted the supply teacher as he began his lesson realised that he was drunk and ordered him off the premises. One teacher blacklisted by the Department for Education and Employment had turned up running a supply agency of his own in Newcastle.

The heads believed teachers fired from other schools could use agencies as a back door to return to teaching.

TimePlan, the first and largest specialised teacher supply agency which places 700 teachers in schools every day, backed Mrs Hodge's call for tighter regulations and a bonding scheme similar to that used by approved travel agents. This would protect teachers' pay if an agency went out of business.

Tish Seaborne, managing director of TimePlan, said: "It was not long after we started that we found some of our rejects turning up in classrooms. If things go wrong, all teacher supply agencies are going to be tarred with the same brush unless we bring in regulations."

□ A teacher has been savagely beaten by two drunk teenagers. Mike Parsley, 30, was left with a broken thumb, a possible broken nose, damage to his eye and severe bruising after the lunchtime assault by two ex-pupils at Highbury Grove Secondary School in Islington, north London.

## Family reaps gold reward for lifetimes of adventure

By ALAN HAMILTON

FOUR brothers and sisters set an adventure record yesterday when they were presented with Duke of Edinburgh gold awards on the same day.

Jason, Scott, Tracie and Sharon McCarthy, of Shepperton, west London, embarked on their unique quest together four years ago, when they undertook a week's expedition to the Black Mountains in Wales. They reaped their reward at a ceremony at St James's Palace attended by the Duke, who launched his challenge scheme for young people 40 years ago. Since then more than 2.5 million teenagers and young adults have entered the scheme and nearly 125,000 have achieved gold standard.

A spokesman for the award scheme said yesterday: "We have had four cousins up for awards at one time, but never before four siblings. This is a first." The four were presented with their medals by Neil Fox, a disc jockey with Capital Radio.

Jason, 27, earned his gold by travelling in South-East Asia with the Operation Raleigh scheme and by winning a silver medal while competing for the British jiu-jitsu team at the world championships in Argentina. Tracie, 25, backpacked through the Mekong delta in Vietnam, learning about village life, then learnt scuba diving in Australia.

Sharon, 24, spent 18 months travelling through Asia and Australia, ending up on an expedition with Venture Scouts in Switzerland. Scott, 22, has just returned home after a winter in Austria and a summer on the Greek island of Kos.

The four had the full support of their parents. Their mother, Ann, 54, has joined her children in the past on backpacking trips in Thailand and Central America. "They have all worked so hard and they have all done it independently," Mrs McCarthy said yesterday. "They had no sponsorship or help from school. We have tried to help them out financially, but they have had to meet the cost themselves. I am so pleased that all four have been able to do it while they are still young."

Sheila Smith, of the award scheme, said: "They are a quite remarkable family and thoroughly deserve their achievement."

Photograph, page 26

Also available in white

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# Warning over fruit drink additives by food watchdog

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

FRUIT-FLAVOURED bottled spring water contains a mix of potentially dangerous chemicals and is often loaded with sugar, the Food Commission claims today. It says that some are produced with low-cost additives and that manufacturers exploit an unjested image of purity to push prices as high as £2.80 a litre.

Research into 24 brands published in *Food Magazine* shows that many of the most popular brands contain preservatives, colourings, artificial sweeteners and other additives. The commission says this makes a mockery of claims of purity on labels.

Ian Tokelove, its spokesman, said: "People with asthma are drinking some of these products and wondering why they are short of breath. The labels describe the drinks as spring water with a hint of flavouring, but this is not making clear that they are full of artificial chemicals."

Unlike mineral water, spring water has no legal definition and is usually obtained from bore holes into underground reservoirs. The

addition of flavourings means it technically becomes a soft drink, making it legal to use chemicals including artificial sweeteners, such as aspartame, which costs just 11p to flavour two litres of liquid, against 12p for sugar.

Where real sugar is used, the amounts are high. Sainsbury's tangerine-flavoured Crystal Spa was found to contain more than a Coca-Cola and a 250ml carton of Ribena Spring had the equivalent of seven lumps. The British Dental Association said spring water drinks containing sugar increased the risk of tooth decay.

More serious, according to the magazine, is the use of the preservative sodium benzoate in half the products tested, which some research suggests may cause breathlessness and trigger hyperactivity, even though it has been approved by the European Union.

Christine Milburn, of the British Soft Drinks Association, said members were bound by regulations which ensured the purity of the source. "We add nothing

which has not been tested and approved by all 15 member states of the EU."

An EU directive passed last July means that manufacturers have to list all additives on the label, but it will be next summer before this comes fully into force. SmithKline Beecham, manufacturer of Ribena, said: "We use real sugar rather than artificial sweeteners because that is more wholesome."

Marks & Spencer adds aspartame and sodium benzoate. "These are both on the approved list of additives," a spokesman said. Sainsbury's said all the products tested by the commission were "designed to be refreshing". Company policy was to provide as much information as possible to customers. The company was now reviewing soft drinks labels and would add "with sweetener" to them where applicable.

Tesco denied that its labelling was misleading. Its water was from 100 per cent natural source flavoured with natural fruit juices and there was no added sugar, it said.

## Water companies say six new reservoirs are needed

By NICK NUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT  
CORRESPONDENT

SIX new reservoirs will be needed in east and south-east England to ensure water supplies into the next century as demand rises because of global warming and an increase in single households, water companies in England and Wales said yesterday.

Their warning was issued in advance of a government report on water resources into the 21st century, due today. The report will outline the threat to rivers, wetlands and other nature sites if too much is taken for supplies.

The Department of the Environment says that demand is soaring because of the

popularity of gardening and a projected growth in new households to more than four million, as well as rising temperatures and more frequent droughts.

Professor Paul Harrington of Loughborough University, who compiled the report, predicted that domestic consumption for appliances and gardening would rise by 36 per cent by 2021, and 41 per cent if there is significant global warming.

Brian Duckworth, managing director of Severn Trent and spokesman for the Water Services Association, which represents nine of the ten big companies, said domestic consumers would not accept more rationing so action had to be taken now for the future.

He said that there was a requirement for at least six new reservoirs to ensure an adequate margin of safety. They will be destined for the East and South East. Two have already been proposed in Oxfordshire and Kent.

The Environment Agency has urged the companies to tackle leaks and demand management before it will consider backing development of new, and potentially environmentally damaging, resources such as reservoirs.

The Princess with Danielle Stephenson yesterday. The seven-year-old underwent pioneering surgery in May to rectify an irregular heartbeat



Princess  
praises  
'miracles'  
of heart  
surgeons

By EMMA WILKINS

DIANA, Princess of Wales, praised the "miracles" performed by heart specialists and the courage of their patients yesterday.

The Princess was helping to raise money for research into heart and lung disease with the help of Danielle Stephenson, from Southend, Essex. The girl is among dozens of heart patients the Princess has visited regularly at the Royal Brompton Hospital in west London.

At a reception in aid of the Heart of Britain charity, the Princess said she was "fascinated by the workings of the heart". In the foreword to a book of photographs aimed at raising money for the charity, the Princess wrote: "I have been privileged to see for myself the miracles — at the very leading edge of medicine today — performed by the teams of surgeons, doctors and nurses at Royal Brompton Hospital, whose dedication saves so many lives."

"I have been profoundly impressed, too, to see how bravely patients cope — and have been particularly touched by the courage and trust shown by Britain's little people — our children. All need our compassion, our love and our support at what is often their darkest hour."

Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub, the joint president of Heart of Britain who invited the Princess to attend an operation at Harefield Hospital in April, praised her "inspirational" care and compassion at the reception at Harrods, which was hosted by the store's chairman, Mohamed Al Fayed. The charity book contains 300 photographs showing scenes of modern life, submitted to a competition by amateur photographers. It costs £19.99, with all profits going to the charity.

Danielle became one of the first children in Britain to undergo new treatment in May this year to burn away abnormal electrical pathways inside her heart that were causing an irregular heartbeat.

### NEWS IN BRIEF



Yates went to police  
Yates gets  
bail in  
drug case

Paula Yates, the television presenter, has been released on police bail until December while investigations continue into the alleged discovery of opium at her home. Miss Yates, 36, former wife of Bob Geldof, was arrested when she went to Chelsea police station. She is said to have maintained that any drugs found at the home she shares with the rock singer, Michael Hutchence, must have been planted.

### Aids man named

A hospital anaesthetist who died of an Aids-related virus, prompting hundreds of inquiries from worried patients, has been named as Gopinathan Manohar. Mr Manohar, married with a three-year-old son, was a registrar anaesthetist at the Royal Albert Edward Hospital in Wigan.

### 'Eco' evictions

Bailiffs evicted more than 50 protesters who had barricaded themselves into a self-styled eco-village set up on a 13-acre site beside the Thames in Wandsworth, southwest London, on derelict land owned by Guinness. One protester was arrested.

### CORRECTION

A report, "Call for curb on stage hypnotists" (September 23), failed to make clear that Philip Green was not the hypnotist in the stage act in which Sharon Tabarn was involved, and was not connected in any way with her subsequent death. We apologise to Mr Green and his family.

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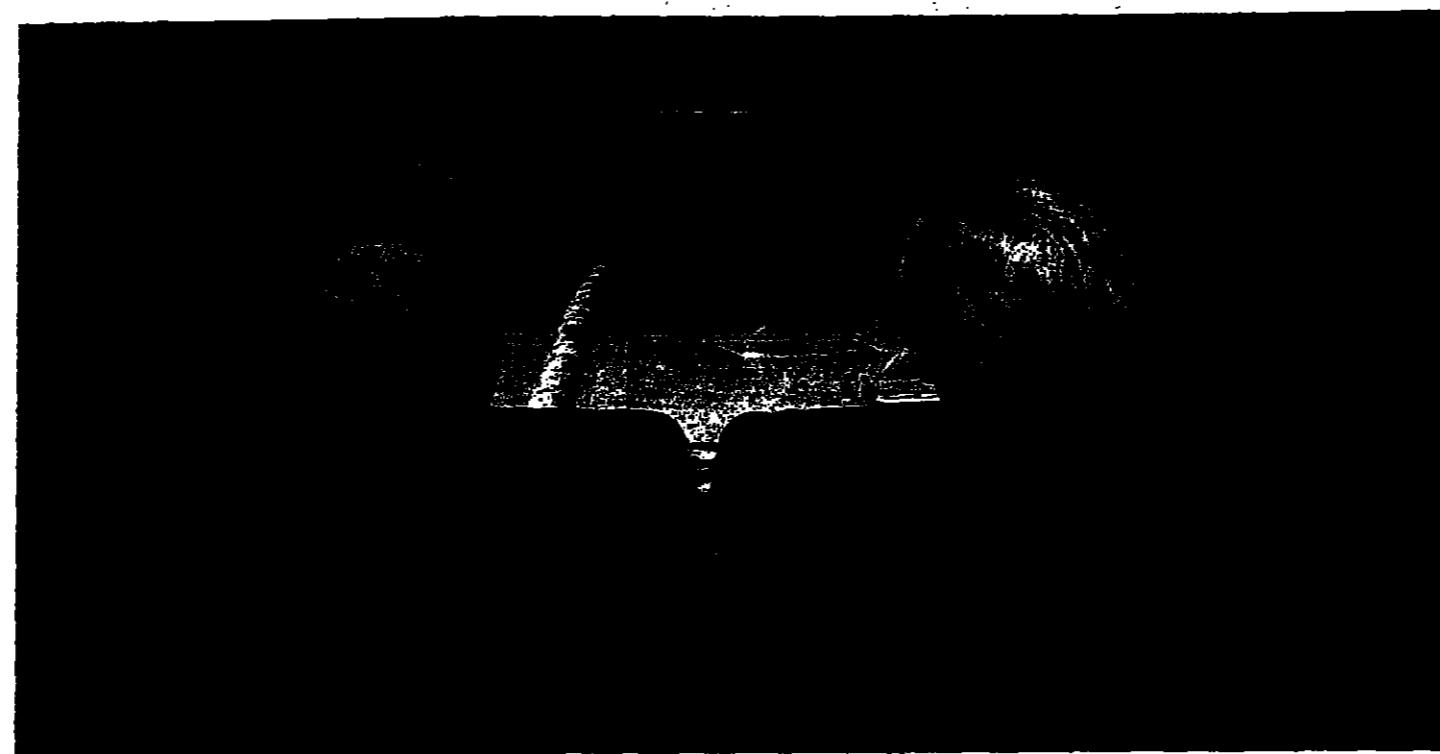
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Thousands of jobs announced as Britain begins to celebrate 100 years of car-making

## Land Rover in drive to double output with sporty mini

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

LAND ROVER is to spend more than £350 million developing a mini four-wheel-drive vehicle aimed at women and young drivers, the company announced yesterday.

The sporty vehicle, which will be in production within two years, will sell for under £15,000 and help to double Land Rover production to more than 200,000 a year. Dr Walter Hesselius, chairman of Rover Group, said yesterday that the expansion would mean 10,000 jobs for component makers supplying Land Rover's plant in Solihull, West Midlands. Another 1,000 jobs have been created for construction workers building the new assembly lines, estimated to cost £350 million.

Vauxhall is spending £340 million to expand and modernise its plant at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. The plant, which produces Astra models, 40 per cent of them for export, will have maximum output increased from 120,000 to 160,000 annually. The growth creates 200 new jobs.

News of the investment boosted the motor industry, which is celebrating 100 years of car-making at the British International Motor Show at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. The show opens to the public on Friday. As the show's press

preview began yesterday, the country's smallest manufacturers were talking of expansion plans. The Blackpool sports car maker TVR has doubled its workforce in more than \$40 to cope with demand, while Marcos plans to double production of its powerful sports models to 200 a year.

Eric Thompson, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "After a century of car-making in Britain, there is a buzz and confidence in our factories and design houses once again."

The most significant announcement came from Rover, which is sweeping away doubts over its future since the takeover by BMW three years ago. There were fears that BMW would cut jobs and investment, using Rover as an offshoot to supplement production in Germany. But Dr Hesselius said BMW was investing £500 million a year in Rover.

Land Rover made 68,000 vehicles in its first year under BMW ownership in 1993 but is scheduled to treble that number by the end of the decade. Most growth will come from the introduction of the new vehicle, which will take Land Rover into new territory, appealing to buyers who traditionally bought Japanese

vehicles. Dr Hesselius said the new vehicle, codenamed CN40, is smaller, lighter and designed for drivers who enjoy active leisure time.

This investment shows BMW's confidence in Rover and will inject a total of £3.5 billion into the UK automotive component industry," he said. British component companies will supply 57 per cent of the parts on the new mini Land Rover and the vehicle will be designed in-house with no help from BMW.

The line-up of new cars at the show is one of the most glamorous for years. Jaguar's £50,000 XK8 sports car heads the attractions. Lotus, TVR, Mercedes and Porsche are all showing new models. Ford disclosed the price of the Ka, its quirky city car that goes on sale this month at £7,300 to £8,100.



A prototype of the "greener" black cab, which can run on unleaded petrol and compressed natural gas

## Green cab cuts down on city pollution

A POSSIBLE successor to the black cab, running on petrol and gas instead of diesel, was launched yesterday.

Drivers of Asquith Motor Carriage's new version will flick a dashboard switch to change from unleaded petrol to compressed natural gas, radically cutting exhaust pollution. The company

aims to be ready to launch a fumeless electric model by 2003. The system is being developed by Zeta Energies, which is looking for £600,000 backing to speed development.

The Asquith cab has six seats and a suspension which lowers the floor to pavement level, improving access for

wheelchair users. Instead of seatbelts, bars containing airbags swing down in front of passengers.

Yesterday Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, unveiled a project to see if electric cars and vans in Coventry



The mini 4WD takes Land Rover into new territory.

## Ford ad banned after complaints

By CAROL MIDDLETON

A FORD advertisement has been withdrawn after complaints from mental health charities that it trivialised schizophrenia. The radio commercial for the Ford Courier van featured the comedian Alexei Sayle as a customer who was "in two minds" about whether to buy the vehicle.

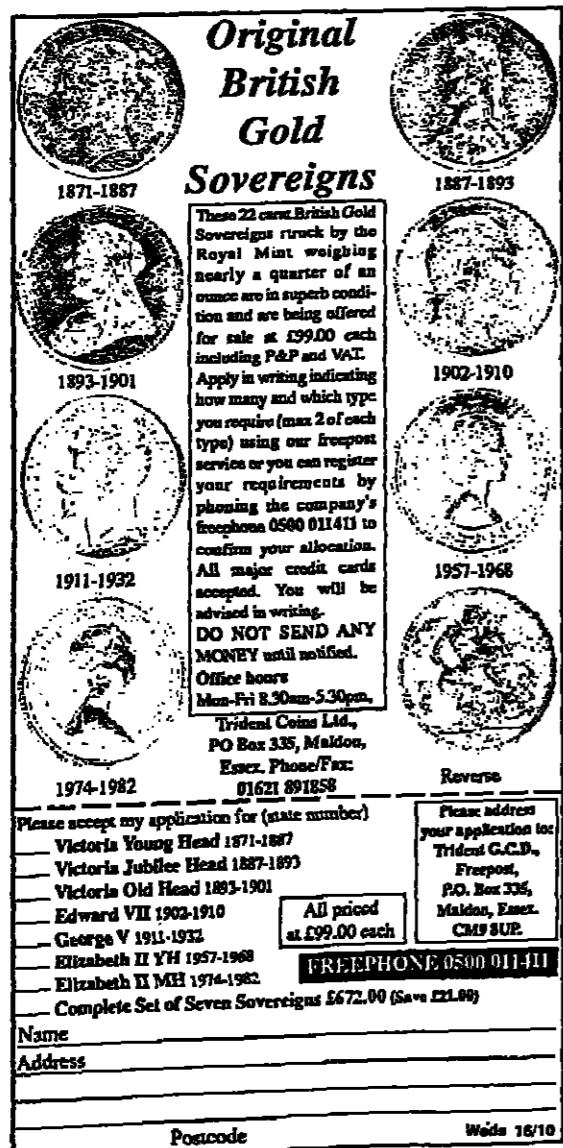
Sayle said: "You know, sometimes I think I'm schizophrenic... half of me wants a big van, half of me wants a small van. That's the trouble with both of me."

Fifteen complaints were received by the Radio Authority, including protests from the National Schizophrenia Fellowship and the Scottish Association for Mental Health. The charities said the commercial "misrepresented

and trivialised this serious and often misunderstood illness". Complaints from health workers and relatives of schizophrenics said that the light-hearted treatment was offensive.

The advertisement was broadcast on a number of local radio stations and a national station, Talk Radio. A Ford spokesman said: "We withdrew the advert as soon as we received complaints. We did not mean to offend anyone. Perhaps the advertising agency went a little bit too far this time."

In February, Ford apologised to four black workers and paid them compensation after white faces were imposed on their bodies in a photograph for a sales brochure.



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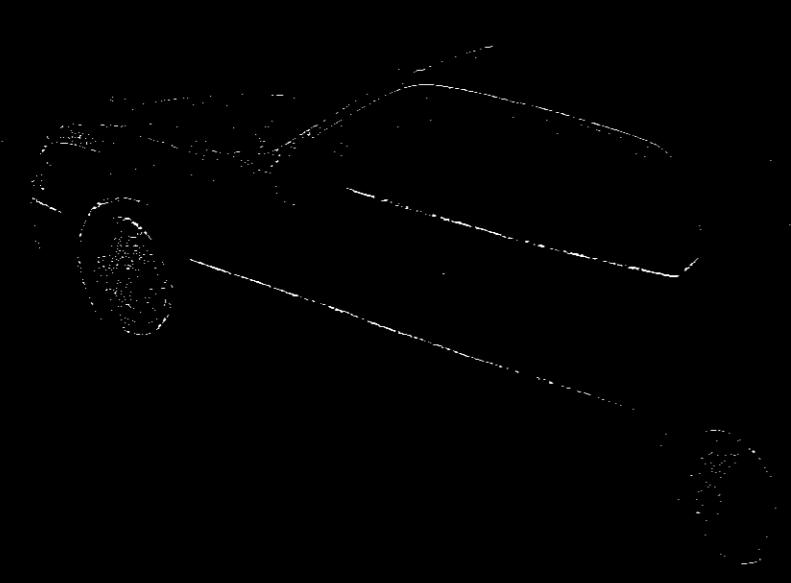
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Zambezi explorers survive close encounters on record paddle through heart of Africa

## Kayak pair dodge rocks and crocs for 1,700 miles

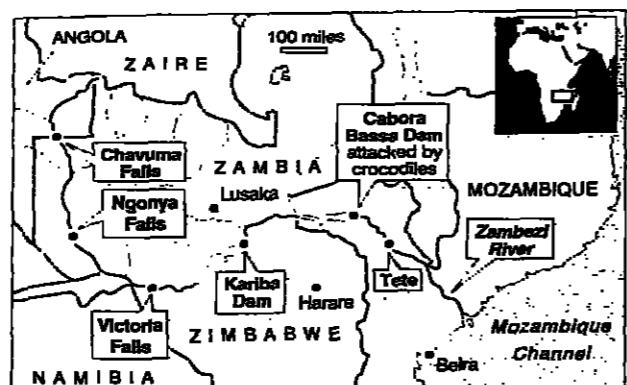
By RUSSELL JENKINS

TWO British adventurers are today celebrating a record-breaking kayak expedition from the source of the Zambezi River to the sea. They fled from a man-eating crocodile and braved some of the world's most dangerous white-water rapids during their three-month journey.

Justin Matterson, 33, and Rupert FitzMaurice, 31, both suffered from malaria as they paddled 1,675 miles from northwest Zambia to the magnificent sand-barred river delta on the Mozambique coast along the Indian Ocean.

On the trip, which involved 67 days of canoeing, the pair were almost capsized by charging hippos, caught in a whirlpool, paddled within 3ft of the Victoria Falls and rode out Force 5 winds on one of the continent's largest man-made lakes. Mr Matterson, from Evanston, Ross and Cromarty, veteran of a 2,000-mile run through the Himalayas, and Mr FitzMaurice, of Forest Row, East Sussex, who runs expeditions for the charity Raleigh International, believe they are the first to conquer the river unsupported.

The Source to Sea Appeal, spawned by the canoeists' safety. "I don't know why he didn't go for Fitz again. With a croc that size, you would have no chance."



adventure has so far raised £7,000 towards a £25,000 target for the Leukaemia Research Fund. Both men are now recuperating in Harare, Zimbabwe, and are due to give a talk on their experiences at the Royal Geographical Society in January.

Their most terrifying moment came as they were negotiating a narrow passage beyond the Cabo Bassa lake in Mozambique. They had been warned by Afrikaner settlers to beware a crocodile which they later learnt was blamed for the deaths of five men. "Fitz felt a bang and the back of his kayak go down," Mr Matterson said. "He

thought he had hit a submerged tree but when he turned around, he had the shock of his life.

"He saw what he considered to be the biggest crocodile head he has ever seen. It was resting on the kayak at a slight angle, looking towards him so you could see his teeth. His head appeared to be grinning. Fitz was in a hell of a state."

The head slunk back into the water as Mr FitzMaurice sprinted down the river. As the two men were pulling into the side, Mr Matterson spotted the crocodile gliding up behind his partner. He screamed a warning to Mr FitzMaurice, who dashed for the bank and

shouted. "On three occasions we started hippos on the bank," Mr Matterson said. "They hurl themselves into the river and head for deep water. It is quite an adrenaline-pumping, fear-inducing moment. Hippos munch more people than any other animal. It is like being charged by a Buick."

In Mozambique the river passed through a wildlife conservation area known as Hippo City, home to more than 300 hippos. "That was a nerve-racking experience," Mr Matterson said. "People get taken on that stretch of the river every year."

"When we got to the sea we were silent for a good few hours. Basically we have kayaked through the heart of Africa."



Rupert FitzMaurice, left, and Justin Matterson on the banks of the Zambezi

## Morrell's courage inspires hostage's girlfriend to fly to Kashmir

By EMMA WILKINS



Mosely: encouraged by Morrell and McCarthy

THE girlfriend of a British student kidnapped in Kashmir more than a year ago is to fly to India to search for him. There has been no contact with the kidnappers of Paul Wells for ten months but Catherine Mosely has refused to give up hope that he is alive.

Mr Wells, 25, a photographic student from Blackburn, was kidnapped while the couple were trekking in the north Indian state in July last year. Miss Mosely, 27, will leave for New Delhi later this week. She has been encouraged to keep her hopes up by Jill Morrell, who campaigned for more than four years for the release of John McCarthy from Beirut.

Miss Mosely, from Norwich, said: "I know nothing for certain. Paul could be dead, but I choose to believe he is still alive. There are times when the future looks so bleak, but I try to be optimistic. I have been living two lives: things go on normally, but this is always in the back of my mind."

She will travel to India with Bob Wells, her boyfriend's father. They hope to make contact with the group that is holding him and three other tourists: Keith Mangan, an electrician from Middlesbrough; Donald Hutchings, an American; and Dirk Hasert, a German.

Indian police believe that they were kidnapped by al Faran, a Kashmiri separatist group. A Norwegian hostage was found beheaded last year.

Families of the hostages, including Miss Mosely and Julie Mangan, Mr Mangan's wife, have spoken to Miss Morrell, Mr McCarthy and Terry Waite, who was also taken hostage in Beirut. James Bowman, who runs the campaign to free the hostages, said: "Cath and Julie Mangan have taken heart from Jill and her determination not to give up hope and to keep campaigning for John's release."

Mr Bowman said the aim of Miss Mosely's trip was to "establish some sort of contact with the captors, if only to establish that the men are still alive".

Miss Mosely and Mr Wells will make contact with diplomats at the British High Commission in New Delhi before going to the Srinagar valley in Kashmir, where the hostages were taken. High Commission staff may accompany them, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Al Faran is thought to operate from a Pakistani-controlled area, north of the line of control drawn by the United Nations. Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, was asked by John Major to help to find information about the hostages when she visited Britain two weeks ago.

On November 14, 500 days after the men were captured, a group called Hostages in Kashmir will be launched to help to draw public attention to their plight.



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### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Sentence on driver increased

A 15-month jail sentence on a speeding car driver who killed a pizza delivery boy was increased to 3½ years by the Court of Appeal. The judges held that the sentence passed on Richard French, 21, of Feltham, west London, for causing the death of 16-year-old Howard Petty was unduly lenient. The incident, in June, occurred hours after French had been freed on probation for a "road rage" offence.

### Rail firm strike

The Rail, Maritime and Transport union will hold the first of a series of one-day strikes at First Engineering, a Scottish rail maintenance firm, on October 24, over the sacking of a member in a dispute over washing facilities.

### Breton award

A linguist from Wales has been honoured by Brittany for promoting the Breton language. Rita Williams, 57, of Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, is the first Briton to receive the Ermine Collar, a Breton cultural award.

### Life for rapist

A man who abducted a woman in Aberdeen and drove her 125 miles to rape her at his home in Edinburgh was jailed for life at the city's High Court. The judge recommended that George Clark, 35, serve at least 12 years.

### Customer care

The people of Cardigan in West Wales raised £8,000 to send their postman, Michael Glover, to visit his grandfather in New Zealand after Mr Glover, 28, was found to be suffering from cancer. He has had to stop working.

### Sickness at work

British workers take an average of 1.2 sick days a year, according to a survey by the insurers Legal and General. Forty per cent claimed never to have taken a day off. The CBI however said that the true figure was eight days a year.

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Former SAS officer pips First Sea Lord to maintain army tradition

## General Guthrie wins top post in Services

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL Sir Charles Guthrie, head of the Army, was confirmed yesterday as the next Chief of the Defence Staff, despite a campaign by a former Royal Navy chief to have the present First Sea Lord promoted to Britain's top military appointment.

Sir Charles, a sharp but affable commander, will succeed Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge when he retires next April. The appointment, which was announced yesterday after approval from the Queen, will mean that Sir Charles will have followed directly in the career footsteps of Sir Peter for seven posts. He took over from Sir Peter as Chief of the General Staff in March 1994.

Sir Charles, a former SAS officer, will be the first Chief of the Defence Staff not to be promoted to a five-star rank. Instead of moving up to field marshal he will remain a general, although the Minis-



Inge to retire next April after three years in post

try of Defence will be recommending to the Top Salaries Review Body that he should be paid on a higher scale than his fellow four-star generals.

Sir Peter Inge earns £124,639 a year, rising to £125,550 in December. By comparison, General Guthrie earns £100,255 from the present post, rising to £101,230 in December.

The only other shortlisted candidate was Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff. The two other names on the original list were Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Force, and Air Chief Marshal Sir John Willis, Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff.

Senior MoD sources said that Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, had spent several months considering the shortlist. They said the Navy had "a very strong candidate indeed". However,

Defence Staff, said Mr Portillo was wrong not to appoint Sir Jock. The late Lord Fieldhouse was the last Navy man to hold the post in 1988.

Lord Hill-Norton said: "I don't know General Guthrie — I'm told he's a first-rate chap — but Jock Slater is a star. His experience should have weighed strongly in his favour. But Mr Portillo seems to think that most of the action is in Bosnia and Northern Ireland and so it's right to appoint someone from the Army. I think it's bad news for the country and for the Navy."

General Guthrie, 51, has a reputation for being a charming and smooth operator who has acquired the necessary Whitehall skills to deal with ministers and civil servants.

He was commissioned into the Welsh Guards in 1959 and became a troop commander with 22nd Special Air Service Regiment seven years later. He returned to the Welsh Guards in 1970 to command a mechanised infantry company



General Sir Charles Guthrie is well versed in the political skills needed to deal with ministers

they added that, since 1982, there had been no rotation system between the Services and Mr Portillo thought that General Guthrie had all the qualities he was looking for.

Although Sir Jock was keeping a dignified silence, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, a former Chief of the

before attending the Staff College at Camberley. He commanded the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in 1977 in Berlin and Northern Ireland.

His rise through the Army led to him becoming Assistant Chief of the General Staff in 1987 and took command of the 1st British Corps in October

1989. He was promoted to Commander-in-Chief British Army of the Rhine in 1992. He is married to Kate and has two sons, David and Andrew. He is a keen skier, horseman and tennis player.

The name of the next Chief of the General Staff will be announced next month.

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## Contest seeks schemes that enrich local communities

By JOHN YOUNG

THE eleventh annual Community Enterprise Awards, organised by Business in the Community and sponsored by The Times and Deloitte & Touche, are launched today with prizes worth more than £20,000. Their aim is to publicise outstanding examples of local people working with companies in their neighbourhoods to establish amenities and improve the quality of life.

Among the achievements of previous award winners are job creation and the establishment of businesses employing local people. They have set up housing co-operatives and built accommodation for the homeless; others have improved the environment and developed community facilities ranging from kindergartens to adult education classes.

Last year's overall winner was the Old Chapel Housing and Community Trust in Kirkby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. In the former mining town hit by 25 per cent unemployment, the trust has established four houses and a hostel for homeless young people. It has won support from charities, businesses and local authorities.

This year for the first



time the awards will be made regionally. Two winners will be found in each of eight English regions, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, one for projects with a turnover of less than £50,000 and one for those above. Entries are invited from individuals, community organisations, businesses, local authorities or any other group for projects completed between January 1, 1991, and October 1 this year. The closing date is December 31.

The regional award winners will be announced next March and the Charles Douglas-Home Award for the overall winner will be presented in May.

Entry forms may be obtained from The Community Enterprise Awards, Business in the Community, 44 Baker Street, London W1M 1DH.

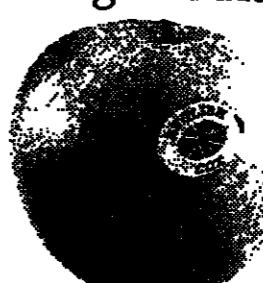
A message from  
HRH the Prince of Wales,  
chairman of the awards

Having been involved in the ten years the awards have been running, I have come to recognise the vital importance of local community involvement in the design and management of programmes and facilities to meet local needs. Over the years the term "community enterprise" has become commonplace and its contribution to social and economic regeneration irreplaceable.

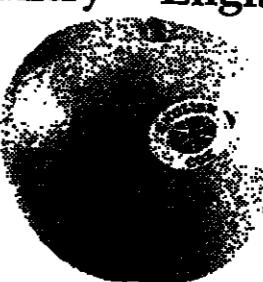
The awards have brought national acknowledgement to a number of local heroes and heroines otherwise known as community entrepreneurs. These individuals have helped to transform the communities and cities in which they live.



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# Pro-Europe Tories mock Goldsmith's 'Napoleonic ego'

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

**SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH** has a Napoleonic ego and his Referendum Party is nothing but a rump of disgruntled Tories and neo-nationalists, according to his pro-European critics.

The attack comes in a pamphlet by the Bow Group, a Tory research organisation that has made the first detailed analysis of Sir James's speech to businessmen in June, known as the Newcastle Manifesto. It will be published on Friday, as the Referendum Party prepares for its conference on Saturday.

*Napoleon or Ross Perot?* is written by Michael Welsh, the former Tory MEP who is chief executive of the Action Centre for Europe. Mr Welsh says that Sir James is more dangerous than the maverick US presidential candidate and bears greater comparison to the French emperor. So exaggerated is Sir James's claim to have a special rapport with the European people that "there are signs of an ego of Napoleonic dimensions".

He accuses Sir James of misinterpreting the European Union's history, saying that his "superficially plausible" case for a referendum on Europe is aimed at "stirring

the patriotic instincts of the British people" and does not stand up to critical analysis.

The Referendum Party has no political programme, but merely a collection of populist slogans. "This is single-issue politics at its most extreme. The extreme naivety of Goldsmith's proposals for the future of the EU suggests that he has failed to think through his positions in any detail."

He continues: "Given that

lack of substance, the Referendum Party is likely to prove as ephemeral as any other single-issue protest movement and unlikely to make any real impact in a general election."

Yesterday his analysis was backed by Edwin Currie and other pro-European Tory MPs. Mrs Currie, MP for Derbyshire South, said that she was delighted that the party was finally exposing Sir James and urged Brian Mawhinney, the chairman, to make clear that Tories could not be members of two parties.

"Sir James is a malcontent, bored and rich man, set on making mischief," she said. "His party can do a lot of damage both to the Conservative Party and our country's position in Europe."

Mr Welsh rejects Sir

James's claims that the British people were conned into joining the EEC by a conspiracy of the political elite. He says it was always made clear that EEC membership would involve some loss of sovereignty and had a political, as well as economic, dimension. He gives warning of the "hazards of a plebiscite" in a mature democracy and asks why Sir James, who backed EU membership in the original 1975 referendum, should now distrust that judgment.

He also rejects Sir James's claim that the European Commission's annual £200 million budget for "pro-European propaganda" outweighs his own £20 million. The £200 million, he says, pays for the European equivalent of Hansard, Parliament's official report, and other formal documents, not pro-Brussels advertising.

Mr Welsh accuses the Referendum Party of failing to address the serious consequences of Britain leaving the EU and dismisses the suggestion that Britain could rejoin the European Free Trade Area. He says that Sir James's planned reforms of the EU — to strengthen the Council of Ministers and emasculate the European Commission, Par-



liament and Court — demonstrated a "profound misunderstanding of the role of the institutions and a cavalier disregard for the realities of inter-state co-operation".

He rejects Sir James's charge that the Government lost its economic indepen-

dence under the Maastricht treaty. Mr Welsh says the sovereignty was lost under the Single European Act, signed by Margaret Thatcher, which ensured that Europe's economies were run as a common concern. "There can be no single market if each partner

pursues an independent economic policy regardless of the interests of the others."

EU membership without the prospect of any common interests would, he said, be like "joining a rugby club with the intention of playing association football".

## Blair adviser proposes scheme for higher pensions

By JILL SHERMAN  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leader's social security adviser has put forward a plan to transform the welfare state that would mean lower basic tax rates but higher national insurance contributions.

In a document published today Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, has suggested changes to increase pensions and provide incentives for the unemployed to find work. His proposals aim to provide a guaranteed pension of two thirds of earnings and a care pension to pay

for residential or nursing care. But all those earning more than £100 a week would be required to contribute to a second pension scheme.

Mr Field, appointed in July to advise Mr Blair on tax and benefit reforms, proposes a 5p starting rate of tax and a 19p basic rate offset by higher national insurance contributions. Those earning less than about £15,600 a year would make a net gain, while those earning more would pay more.

People with salaries of more than £30,000 would pay £500 a year more, while those earning £60,000 would pay about £1,000 more. Those

earning £10,000 would gain about £150 a year, but a small group of low-paid workers would pay more because they would be paying national insurance for the first time.

Although Mr Blair might be attracted to Mr Field's radical thinking, he is unlikely to agree to measures that would hit the middle classes and those earning less than the average wage — about £17,000. Yesterday his office merely said: "As always with Frank, he has made a stimulating contribution to the debate on this very important issue."

But Mr Field argues that people are much more likely to accept

paying extra, targeted insurance contributions than higher direct taxes. "Voters will only be able to foot the bill if they have control over where their savings and contributions go," he said yesterday.

As well as the lower tax rates Mr Field proposes an increase of about £400 in the personal allowance. The changes would be funded by a new NHS insurance-based tax that would raise £18 billion — half the present annual costs of the health service. Everyone earning more than £60 a week would be expected to pay a 7 per cent NHS insurance tax.

Under the new insurance propos-

als every worker would be entitled to a state retirement pension. All those earning more than £100 a week who were not in a second pension scheme would be required to save towards that pension. "The aim of this dual pension scheme is to provide each and every worker a minimum pension entitlement of two thirds previous earnings," Mr Field said.

### IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: backbench debates; Scottish questions; Public Accounts Committee reports; health authority deficits in the Lords; Public Order (Amendment) Bill, committee; access arrangements; children's scheme; Asylum (Designated Courtesies) Order.

## Labour enjoying a free ride in healthcare debate

RIDDELL  
ON POLITICS

Labour's strength in the health and the Tories cannot win. No matter that the Major Government has spent an additional £7.7 billion, or 13 per cent in real terms, since the last election on the NHS. Or that the only specific pledge that the Prime Minister has made for the next Parliament is to increase the health budget each year by more than the inflation rate.

The public is unimpressed. It does not believe the health service is safe in Tory hands. According to MORI polls for *The Times*, Labour has a bigger lead on health than on any other issue. A poll in July showed that more than half the public believed that Labour had the best policies on healthcare, and barely a tenth thought the Tories did.

This is why Tony Blair picked the issue for his first confrontation with John Major at Prime Minister's Questions for three months. His carefully crafted soundbite that people "know you cannot ever trust the Tories on the NHS" was timed to reinforce recent stories about NHS financial problems and the decision by Hillingdon Hospital to take no more GP referrals of patients over 75. It was also intended to offset the impact of the Government's White Paper on primary healthcare, which was broadly welcomed yesterday despite opposition worries about GPs being employed by supermarkets or pharmaceutical companies.

Some Tory strategists are

fatalistic. The famous leaked memorandum two years ago by John Maples, former Tory deputy chairman, argued that ministers should avoid drawing the public's attention to health. Stephen Dorrell does not agree. The main changes were already in place when he took over in July 1995 and he believes there is scope for the Tories to stress the consequent gains. Despite talk of neutralising Labour's advantage on health, the Tories' realistic aim is to narrow the gap — in the same way that Gordon Brown can hope only to reduce, rather than eliminate, public scepti-

PETER RIDDELL

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Poll success of Austrian far Right undermines Prodi's belief in benefits of European integration

## Italian discontent grows over drive to adopt the euro

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THREE weeks after the Italian Cabinet adopted a radical deficit-slashing budget in a final dash to meet the Maastricht single-currency criteria, it is dawning on a shocked Italian nation that the cost is too high.

The centre-left Government of Professor Romano Prodi is facing the first ominous rumblings of popular discontent since it was elected last April. Signor Prodi's office announced yesterday that the Italian leader would hold urgent unscheduled talks on monetary union with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, in Bonn tomorrow.

The dramatic gains made by Jörg Haider's far-right anti-Maastricht Freedom Party in Austria's European elections have had a sobering impact on neighbouring Italy, where until recently adherence to European integration was an article of faith. Suddenly the hard questions are being asked.

"A nationalist Euro-sceptical wind is blowing across Europe," *La Repubblica* said yesterday. "We are so fixated on the criteria for the euro that we are failing to confront the other great issues, such as unemployment, immigration and the fight against crime."

A caricature on the cover of *L'Espresso* magazine shows a grimly determined Signor Prodi at the controls of a motorbike, heading for "Euro pile-up", while Massimo D'Alema, the astute leader of the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) — the former Communist core of the Government — gestures in a different direction from the sidecar.

Sixty per cent of Italians still say they are willing to make "sacrifices" to qualify for the euro. The entry at the weekend of the Finnish markka to the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) was — as *La Repubblica* put it — "a shock to us Mediterraneans, who think of Finland as a remote land of ice and mist".

The Prodi budget, which included a housing tax and a euro levy, was partly designed to undercut moves by Umberto Bossi's Northern League to secede and join economic and monetary union (EMU) separately. It was mainly inspired, however, by fear that fellow southern Europeans — above all the Spanish — would qualify while Italy did not.

At the European Union finance ministers' meeting in Luxembourg this week, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Treasury

and Budget Minister, defended the budget, saying if he had predicted in May that Italy would be aiming to reduce its deficit to 3 per cent of gross domestic product by next year "they would have taken me off to the madhouse". He insisted that the lira would rejoin the ERM, which it left with sterling in 1992, "by the end of the year".

The end of the year is, however, only ten weeks away. Signor Prodi argues tartly that, if France is allowed "creative accounting", Italy should be too. However, Italians acknowledge that President Chirac tactlessly blurted out what he and Herr Kohl really thought when, on the eve of the Franco-Italian summit in Naples ten days ago, he said Italy would be left behind because of the "unstable lira". Jean Arthuis, the French Finance Minister, said at Luxembourg that the "hasty re-entry" of the lira to the ERM would "risk harm to both the Italian and the European monetary authorities", while Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank chairman, said Europe needed "durable economic convergence" — a coded rebuff to Italian aspirations.

Leading article, page 23



*L'Espresso* depicts Romano Prodi and Massimo D'Alema, hurtling towards an inevitable "Euro pile-up".

## French Fourth Estate stages 24-hour strike in protest at loss of tax perk

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS

FRENCH journalists, enraged at plans to eliminate their traditional tax perks, went on a 24-hour strike yesterday, reducing radio and television news coverage to a bare minimum and preventing the publication of today's edition of many national and regional newspapers.

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, insisted the Government would not

back down from its pledge to scrap tax concessions for more than 100 professions, including a 30 per cent income tax deduction for journalists dating back to 1934.

But in an apparent attempt to calm the situation, M Juppé issued a vague statement saying that he had ordered Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, "to see that the move does not worsen certain situations in professions now benefiting from this rebate".

All of France's main journalists' unions supported the strike, insisting that the tax concession is an accepted part of journalists' salaries and claiming that a reporter earning the average wage of £1,600 a month would forfeit the equivalent of a month's pay if the tax reform goes through.

Several regional newspapers and journalists reporting on the French parliament have also threatened to stop coverage of politicians who

vote in favour of removing their privileged tax status.

Staff at *Le Monde* voted not to join the protest, but unions at most other leading French newspapers, including *Le Figaro*, *Liberation* and *Le Parisien*, voted to strike.

State-owned radio and television channels provided a skeleton news service while the news radio station France-Info was largely replaced by music.

Tax reform is just one incendiary

element in a 1997 budget aimed at reducing spending and cutting the deficit to ensure France qualifies to join European monetary union.

The journalists' strike yesterday was a foretaste of tomorrow's general strike when civil servants, teachers, rail and power workers

are all expected to stop work in protest at government austerity policies, planned job cuts and rising unemployment.

Some MPs have accused protest- ing journalists of unconstitutional behaviour and attempted black mail, but others, apparently fearing a media boycott, have tabled amendments to the tax reform Bill.

Government officials say they are confident tomorrow's 24-hour strike is an isolated, one-off protest rather than the precursor to another winter of discontent. But last year's unrest also began with a one-day strike and government protesta-

tions of confidence.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, was said yesterday to be "deeply concerned" about the electoral success of Herr Haider, who has set his sights on being leader of Austria by 1999 and would be within reach of his goal if he boosts his share of the vote from this weekend's 28 per cent to some 33 per cent.

"All the European finance ministers asked about only one thing — Haider," Herr Klima said after a European ministerial meeting in Luxembourg. The coincidence of the shrinking of the Centre and the apparently unstoppable rise of the Right is deeply worrying to foreign observers.

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# Dole gets personal as funding row engulfs Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE will face President Clinton in the second and final presidential debate tonight after launching an attack on the President's ethics in a last-ditch effort to turn the race around.

Fuelling Mr Dole's attack was a burgeoning scandal involving huge, highly dubious contributions to the Democratic Party and Mr Clinton's re-election campaign from wealthy Indonesians.

Republicans have been competing the tawdry but complex affair for several days, demanding a special prosecutor be appointed to investigate, but only yesterday did the story pick up momentum when it led television news bulletins and crept on to the front pages of several leading newspapers.

Mr Dole, fearful of resurrecting his old "hatchet man" image, has long equivocated about directly attacking Mr Clinton. His wife, Elizabeth, has reportedly said that if he is to lose he should do so with dignity. On Monday, however, he threw caution aside.

At a Kansas City rally he mocked Mr Clinton's claims to an ethical administration, noting: "Over 30 people gone. They're in jail or they're indicted or they're out of there."

He insisted that Mr Clinton



ELECTION 1996

unambiguously rule out presidential pardons for convicted Whitehouse business associates who might otherwise cooperate with Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor. He also compared the White House's improper acquisition of hundreds of FBI files on Republican officials to Watergate.

The Dole campaign published some searching questions about the Indonesian campaign contributions. "Not some slip, slide and duck, Mr President. Just answer the questions," Mr Dole demanded.

Unlike the first debate, tonight's has a "town-hall" format where 120 randomly selected Californians sit around the stage and ask the questions. Mr Dole cannot control the issues raised, and strident attacks could badly backfire in such an intimate setting.

Mr Dole is also vulnerable himself. He has done count-

less favours for important campaign contributors during his 35 years in Congress, grown wealthy through means unavailable to ordinary Americans, and was one of President Nixon's staunchest defenders during Watergate. He vigorously defended President Ford's subsequent pardon of Mr Nixon.

The most controversial Indonesian contributions, totalling \$425,000 (£275,000) over seven months, were made by Arief and Suraya Wirajadatna, an Indonesian couple of apparently modest means living in Washington's Virginia suburbs.

Contributions from foreigners are legal provided they are American residents. However, Republicans insist the Wirajadatna were merely a front for the Lippo Group, a vast Indonesian conglomerate run by the Rady family, whose links with Mr Clinton date back to his Arkansas days.

The contributions were solicited by John Huang, a former Lippo executive who was given a sensitive Commerce Department post dealing with international economic policy in 1994 and later became a Democratic Party fundraiser.

The Wirajadatna are now incommunicado in Indonesia. Mr Huang will answer only written questions. The White House flatly insists no laws were broken.



Bob Dole, left, and Jack Kemp, his running-mate, show a San Diego rally a picture of Mr Dole as a young soldier

## Remodelled First Lady takes to the road

FROM TOM RHODES  
IN CHICAGO

HILLARY CLINTON spent half an hour in the grandiose Chicago ballroom before she was whisked away to another loyal audience in another state to the strains of *Sweet Home Chicago*, the tune she adopted in her native city.

The schedule is released only at the last minute and no member of the media is allowed on her plane. Indeed following

Mrs Clinton offers a challenging response to the publicity-conscious campaign of Elizabeth Dole, wife of the Republican candidate, Bob Dole.

National opinion is divided. Fifty per cent of the electorate, mostly women, view Mrs Clinton as a global role model

and cite misogyny as the cause of her troubles. Almost as many view her as a manipulative and congenital liar whose hand is behind every scandal that has plagued Bill Clinton's ascendancy from Arkansas to the White House. There is talk of her indictment by Whitewater prosecutors next year. In short, she has become the most potent factor in his re-election.

Her carefully-scripted speeches have refined in the liberal ideology that marked her first two years in Washington and proved so disastrous for Mr Clinton at the mid-term elections in 1994.

In twinset and pearls, this is Hillary the asset, rather than Hillary the liability.

## Lourdes Maria and her Madonna doing well

FROM GILES WHITTELL  
IN LOS ANGELES



BURDENED with instant celebrity and an unusual name, Madonna's first child, a girl, was born without complications at a Los Angeles hospital on Monday afternoon.

Lourdes Maria Ciccone Leon weighed 6lb 9oz as she entered her mother's world of global fame and closely guarded privacy.

The arrival of the "showbiz baby of the year" was confirmed by the father of a convicted felon. Dr Paul Fleiss, a paediatrician whose daughter, Heidi, ran a Hollywood call girl ring, supervised the delivery at the singer's request. Mobbed by cameras as he emerged from the Good Samaritan Hospital late on Monday, Dr Fleiss confirmed the birth and his role in it and said it had been natural, not by Caesarean section, as had been rumoured.

Madonna, 38, has given no

mark, she wrote in a recently published diary, adding: "These are comments only a man would make."

In fact, she inspired such talk by joking on television last year that she was considering advertising for candidates for the "fatherhood gig". In the end, she lighted on Mr Leon, a Cuban-born fitness club manager, after bumping into him while jogging in New York's Central Park two years ago. The star spent most of her pregnancy filming *Evita* in Argentina, Hungary and London, but found time to dine with Mr Leon's family in Miami.

Madonna's past is anything but maternal. She exploded onto the pop scene in the early 1980s as a mincing nymphet, and maintained her fame with pointed bras and pornographic picture books.

In the Magazine on Saturday: Madonna on the making of *Evita*

Antarctic job for FBI as chefs get in a stew

FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

FBI agents have been sent to Antarctica after a squabble between cooks at an American base there.

Three agents this week went to McMurdo Sound, site of America's Antarctic base, to investigate what could become a landmark case for the south polar continent. Seven nations claim territorial rights to Antarctica, but since a 1961 treaty these have been placed on ice, as it were, in the name of scientific endeavour and global goodwill.

The arrival of FBI agents, along with a solitary Australian official, could create a legal precedent for the policing of the 5.5 million square mile land mass. Details of the incident in the McMurdo Sound kitchen were foggy, but one cook, equipped with an ice axe, was said to have attempted to bury it in the head of a colleague. A third cook joined in, possibly to separate the two combatants.

Two chefs, named as Tony Beyer and Joe Stern, were hurt in the alleged attack and required stitches. Another man, who was not named, was being held in custody, pending the arrival of the FBI officials.

An FBI spokesman in Washington yesterday refused to comment on the case, but the American move will be watched with interest by the Governments of Britain, Norway, France, Australia, New Zealand, Chile and Argentina, which have all made claims on the region.

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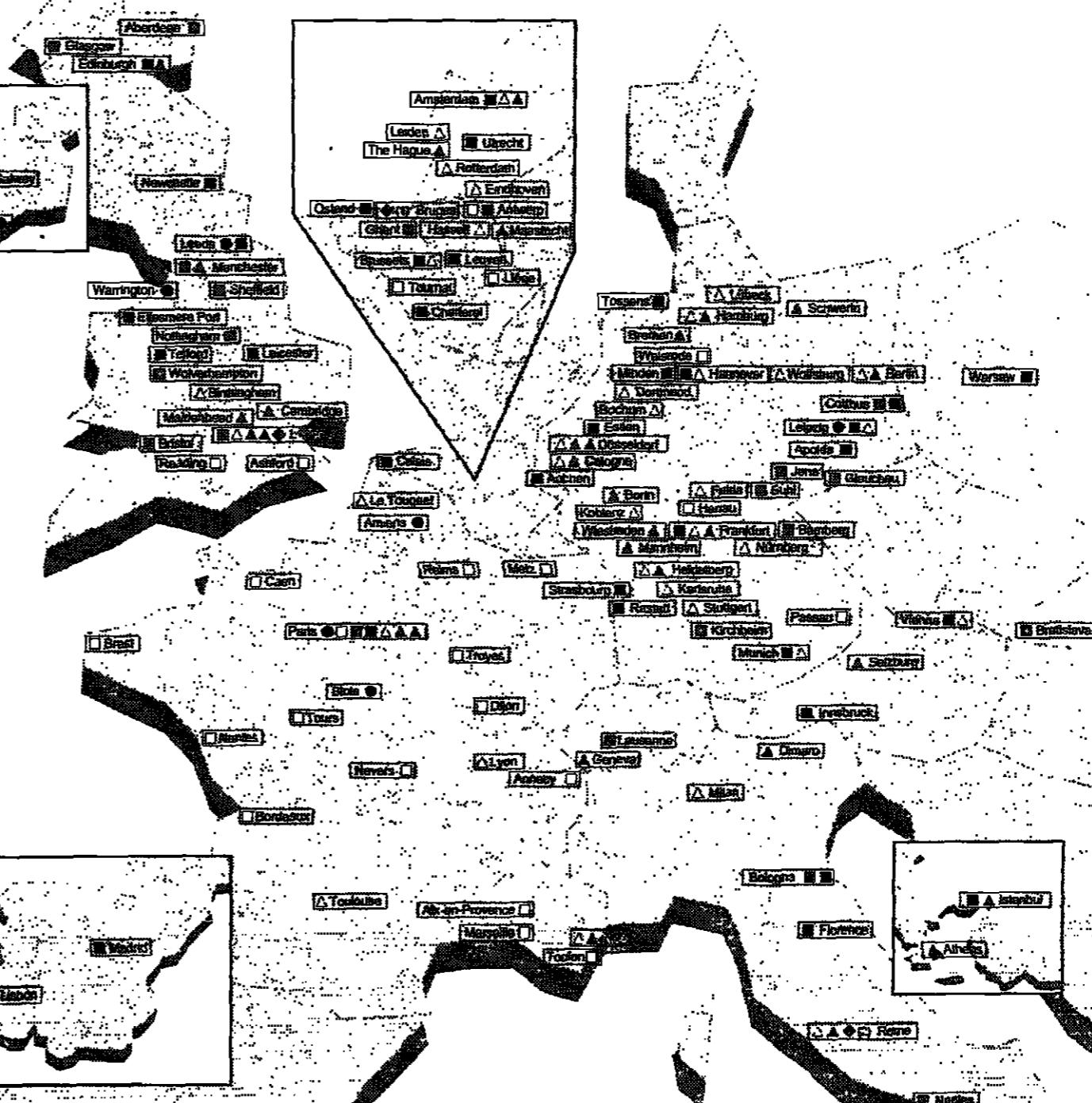
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SITBON: sparkling



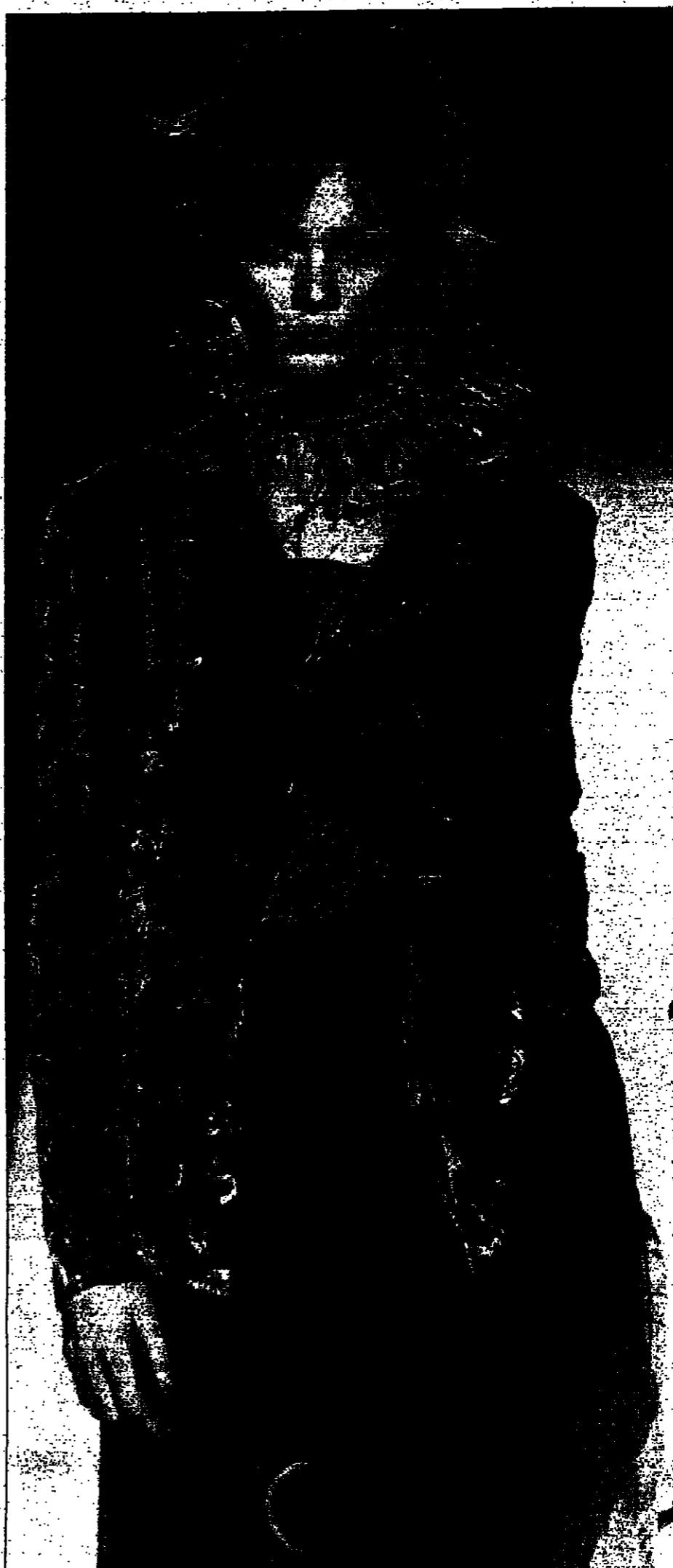
WESTWOOD: simple



VALENTINO: lingerie looks offer a neat line in subdued sexiness

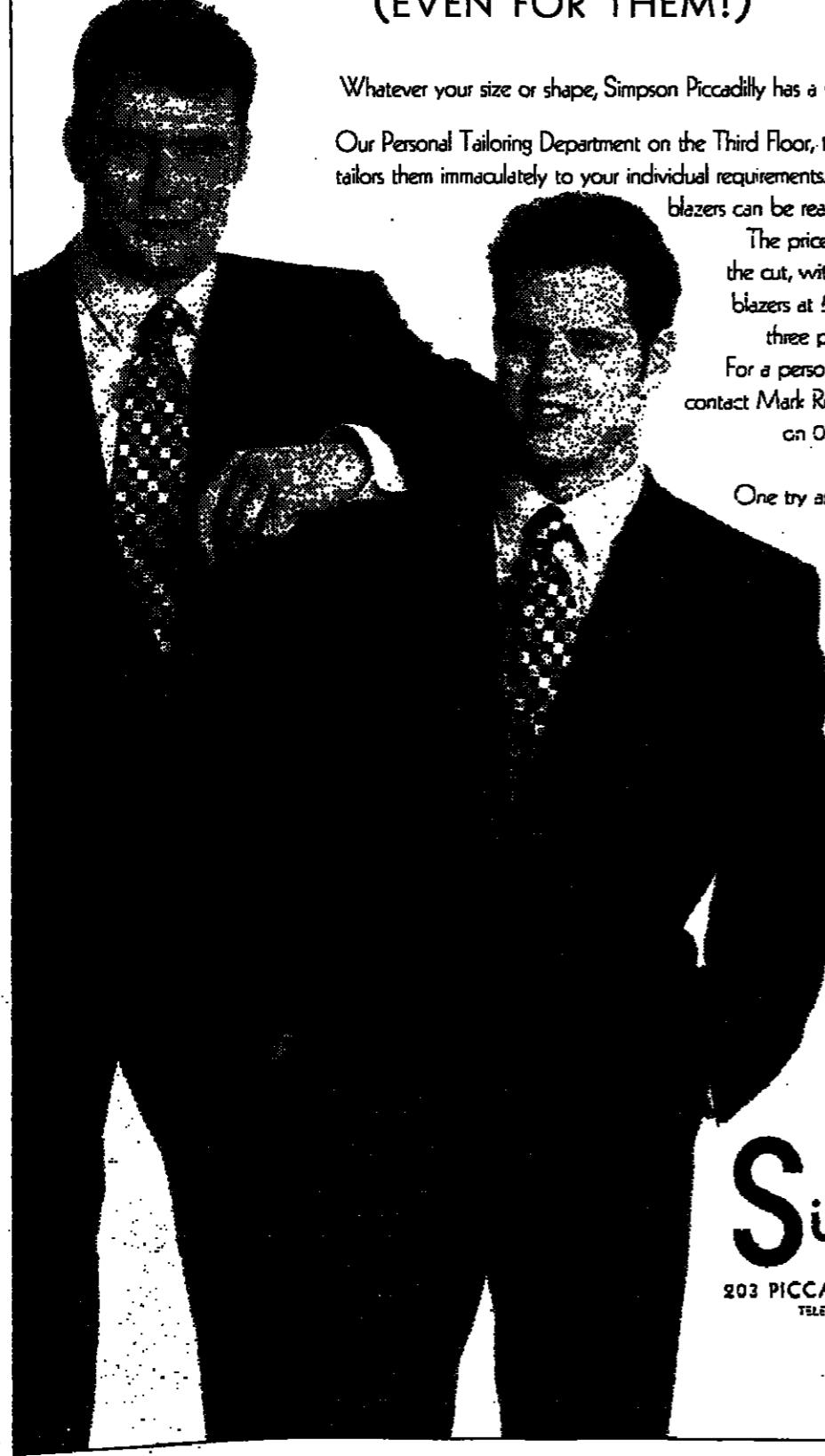


CERRUTI: tailoring teamed with barely-there tops



YAMAMOTO: best of the bunch with an artfully-modern look which embraced colour and pattern

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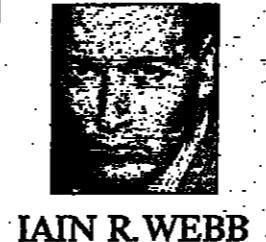
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## Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

**T**hose who scoff when fashion is likened to art should have attended the *Comme des Garçons* spring/summer 1997 presentation during Paris Fashion Week. There was no music to accompany the models, who wore the prettiest of summer dresses (wrapped and twisted about their bodies) in pink and blue gingham and pastel patterned chiffon.

Nothing remarkable about that, you might say, but then there were the humps. Yes, humps, lumps and bumps. Rei Kawakubo, who designs the line, had inserted feather-stuffed pillows between flesh and fabric, distorting the perfectly formed models into bizarre Breughel-esque silhouettes. "The body and dress become one," she explains. Hmmm.

Paris Fashion Week is a paradox. With nearly 100 fashion shows it is possible to experience the wearable, the wacky and the downright weird. There are the immediately accessible clothes of designers such as Valentino and Sonia Rykiel alongside intellectual exercises by the likes of *Comme des Garçons*.

Helmut Lang and Ann Demeulemeester. However, beyond the arty styling and oh-so-serious viewpoint, most collections featured really good things to wear. This was a great season for women who love clothes.

Both Lang and Demeulemeester do excellent trouser-suits — Lang's are spider-like with jackets featuring an inset stripe while Demeulemeester cuts a low-slung, wide trouser with an unstructured double-breasted jacket. Lang also featured shift dresses with wavy hem and fluttering sashes.

Vivienne Westwood created some of the most elegant silhouettes in Paris — sinuous draped crepe cocktail dresses, knitted suits and sleek tailoring. She also showed a long black evening dress which was pure drop-dead chic alongside sun-dresses printed with flowers and fruit. A peach of a collection.

**O**ver at Givenchy, everything was smelling of roses. John Galliano, who designed the line, used spriggy Regency prints on flamboyant ruffled matinée jackets and high-waisted Jane Austen dresses. Leopard-spot chiffon was mixed with candy-coloured brocade, while ultra-simple streamlined blazers in black or white were matched with understated contrast skirts, with hemlines which skimmed the floor. For his own collection, Galliano mixed leather motorbiker suits with gypsy frills.

Martine Sitbon used pinstripe tailoring, golden knits and handkerchief hem devore velvet dresses in a sexy show, while for his eponymous collection Karl Lagerfeld offered jersey slink suits and dresses which slid over the body. For Chanel he made candy-box clothes for his disco dolly models who glided past on a conveyor belt. The outfits were as slick as the presentation.

Rykiel's show featured more than 60 models: Yes, Saint

Laurent used only half a dozen for his intimate studio presentation. Both created utterly Parisian chic. YSL's tuxedo was teamed with a long black skirt and Rykiel favoured blue jeans.

A truly great designer can capture the moment with colour, fabric, shape and, most of all, imagination. He or she also instinctively recognises their own particular moment has come. This season, Valentino met fashion head-on with a collection which showcased his greatest hits — lightweight frills, asymmetric cutting, jackets that were little more than lace shirts, beadwork and tailoring softened with lingerie looks.

Narciso Rodriguez has made the Cerruti-label cool with his red hot designs. This collection embodied fashion's spirit — sophisticated yet carefree. Jersey dresses flowed down the runway next to barely-there camisoles worn with softly tailored suits.

At the other end of fashion is Yohji Yamamoto whose latest show was an exhibition of pure artistry. The Japanese designer embraced colour and decoration alongside the monochromatic. He even added humour with spoof Chanel-type suits and a touch of romance with layers of white lace frills. The simplest of tops and trousers looked covetable. Yamamoto is one of the great masters of the craft.

I guess, after all, fashion is a bit like art. Sometimes you welcome the thought-provoking and other times you just want something you feel comfortable with, something nice to hang on your wall. In which turned out to be a sensational season, Paris offered both.



Photographs by  
CHRIS MOORE/ANDREW THOMAS

## The deadly result of ignorance

The discoveries of science may be unpalatable — but we should still be told

**A** few years back, I came across some American research — emanating from an academic medical centre in Illinois, I believe — which found that women who had abortions while in their late teens and early twenties seemed to be at an increased risk of breast cancer later on.

When I raised this once publicly, I was shouted down, reprimanded for reposing too much trust in a report which was based on a lamentably small sample. This report itself never received much currency over here and I assumed my critics were correct. Even the medical establishment didn't appear to set much store by it or its findings.

I had thought, then, that the findings were at best inconclusive, at worst had been irresponsibly interpreted and that was why they were ignored: now I wonder whether they had simply been quashed.

For newer studies confirm those earlier findings: American scientists are once again proposing that abortion does have an effect on the likelihood of a woman's developing breast cancer, but now they go further, suggesting that having an abortion increases one's chances of breast cancer by a third. What's more, they suggest that this has long since been suspected.

Even if inconclusive — and all research is by its nature inconclusive — this is extremely big news, big enough to be analysed seriously. Instead, the scientists are badmouthed for even having the temerity to publish the results.

Ann Furedi, of the Birth Control Trust, does not say that, I admit, but she does say, by way of rebuke, that "the risks to a woman's health from continuing an unwanted pregnancy are significantly greater than from abortion".

**H**ow can she be so sure? If she won't even consider these latest findings, how can she satisfy herself that there really is nothing in them? Eventually she doesn't like the aspersions the research casts on the healthiness of legalised abortion. But how can she assume that not having an abortion may be more detrimental to women's health? If it is the case that the rise in abortions, since legalisation has been what has led to the increase in breast cancer, then we must face it.

Access to abortion has always been granted, legally, through the argument that continuing with a pregnancy may be bad for the health of the woman in question, so that is the reason cited in its defence. But we all know that is not the reason most women, certainly in the developed world, have abortions. I am not anti-abortion, but neither am I pro-hypocrisies.

It is not enough to say that because this latest study supports the views of the anti-abortionists, it must be ideologically motivated. Science is amoral; it has no scientific value, indeed, unless it is objective. How it is interpreted may support or denigrate any particular moral outlook, but that is a different matter.

Of course, we must not be naive: the anti-abortion movement is a huge propagandist force in America and we should scrutinise very carefully every utterance and be alert to the potential for abuse. This

does not mean we must make up our minds in advance that anything which might give ammunition to the ideological enemy has to be wrong.

Publishing these findings may give concern, but is that reason to withhold information? Just because abortion is legal does not mean that it is agreeable, even without the cancer scare. Why should anyone hold that the guilt-free, misery-free abortion should be desirable, when it cannot, surely, be appropriate, or frankly even possible?

I have written before (when exclaiming at the impertinence of the Government's refusal to inform the public about the possible dangers of certain chemicals in infant formula) that after the birth of my first child I was told by someone who had done research into cot death that bottle-fed babies were significantly more vulnerable to cot death than breast-fed babies. But, she told me, no one wanted to release this information officially because of the consternation it would cause.

It should be stressed that no one knows what causes cot death, but these findings must still be considered. I can see the argument for caution — we must be measured, we must resist alarmism — but we mustn't ignore or, even worse, take it upon ourselves to hide from others that which is unpleasant to consider.

And it can get a little more

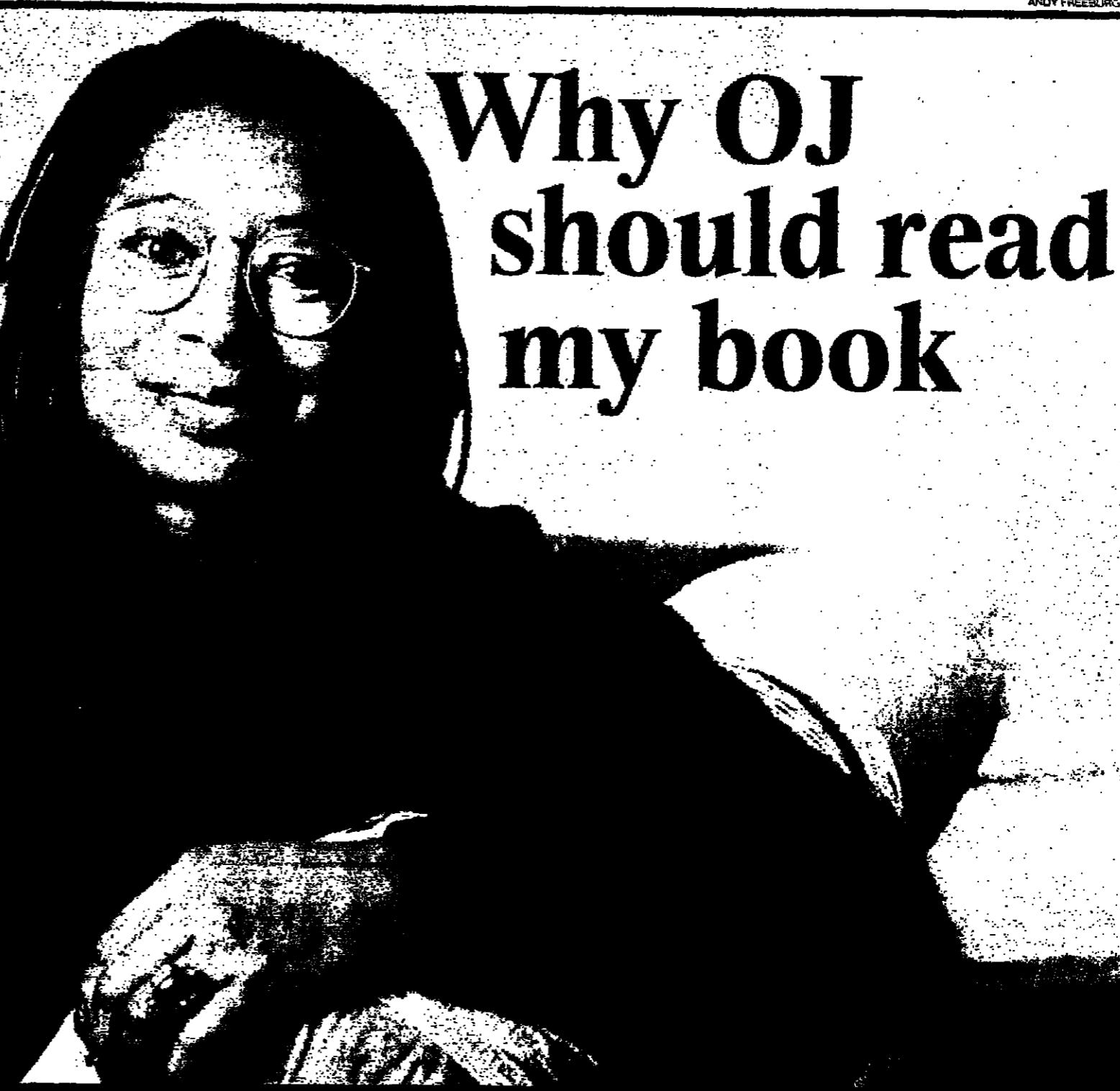


Nigella Lawson

complicated. Scientists have found themselves vilified for publishing views not because their critics disagree with them per se, but because they are afraid of what will be done with them. When, recently, at a conference of geneticists, the idea of a gay gene was mooted, it caused an uproar.

**T**he area of difficulty was not so much that a gay gene might exist, since after all, many gay men felt they benefited from a depiction of gayness that did not see it as a psychosocial aberration but as an essential part of themselves, but that in future a homophobe could locate and exterminate foetuses with just such a genetic make-up. The fear is not a foolish one: science may be without moral implication, but the same patently doesn't hold for its application and interpretation.

Henry James noted that (along with "the presence of money") the prerequisite for scientific inquiry was "the absence of prejudice". But unless we non-scientists want to show ourselves up as coarse-witted we have to master some absence of prejudice of our own. The trouble was that not everyone



Alice Walker says that O.J. Simpson might not have become a wife-beater if he had read *The Color Purple* and understood the pain and humiliation from a woman's viewpoint

**T**he filming of *The Color Purple* was a saga almost as painful as the book itself. Interview with Alice Walker by Giles Whittell

**A**lice Walker lives in spectacular isolation on top of a golden hill in northern California for much of the year. The nearest town is a place of one street, three cafés and an antique petrol pump that might have been painted by Norman Rockwell. It is a world away from the violence of Los Angeles, where the notorious murder of a white couple two years ago triggered a furor that has scarcely abated since. Ms Walker did not know the victims, but she takes their deaths as a personal affront.

Her best-known book, *The Color Purple*, was a story of incest, misogyny and women's courage in the black American South. Since its publication 14 years ago millions have read it and millions more have seen Steven Spielberg's film adaptation. O.J. Simpson, apparently, was not among them.

"If O.J. had read it and felt the pain and humiliation of violence from a woman's point of view; if he had had art to help him feel the woman's suffering, it would have been much harder for him to be a batterer," she says.

"Art absolutely works. That's one of the reasons people often hate it." Ms Walker is famous not only as a writer but also as a hugger, laugher, bisexual, impromptu dancer and avid communicator with the spirits. But it

would be a mistake to underestimate her seriousness. "I had half expected to be swept up in some wild pagan embrace by way of a greeting," she says. "And people of colour in this culture have to keep their own records, because there is a history of distortion of how it really was."

She insists she has nothing against black men even though one of them, her lover, Robert Allen, admitted having an affair just when her need for emotional support was at a peak. She also points out that she agreed to work with a Jewish, male, director mainly because he was the only one who wanted to film her book.

Spielberg was "green and supple", she says. Meaning naive? She denies it, but reveals him more than once as unaware of the insults Americans culture doles out unconsciously to blacks.

For example, he was looking for ways to include her in the film and suggested she appear holding her newborn son, Max. She declined without saying why. But three years later she wrote Spielberg a letter, that appears in the book, explaining that his suggestion had smacked of racial stereotyping and upset her deeply.

Neither does she shrink from more pernicious kinds of record-keeping. She regrets not having made as much money from the film as she expected and criticises the studio's accounting methods.

"I have money," she says. "I don't grieve over what they didn't give me, because I'm happy. I just wonder if they are."

There is something of the fortress about this hilltop retreat. Behind a hefty wooden gate it provides a redoubt in the battles for her many causes. She has planted her 40 acres with saplings to begin

reversing rampant logging. In her view of the world the evil that white men do has got the better of them, and of most of the planet. But then she offers a startlingly optimistic view: black and white people are irresistibly attracted to each other.

Before it turned nasty, the kind of relationship O.J. Simpson had with his murdered ex-

wife Nicole Brown was "for hundreds of years a national fantasy", she says. "There is a lot of love between people racially in this country. However, if you intend to force a group of people to work for you, you have to make laws to keep them separate, and that is what was done."

She speaks from experience. In 1957 she married a Jewish

lawyer and moved with him to Mississippi. Inter-racial marriage was still illegal there, and they were the state's only inter-racial couple. They suffered taunts, stares and unbearable stress. Asked why they divorced seven years later, she replies with one word: "Exhaustion."

● *The Same River Twice* is published by The Women's Press tomorrow at £15.99. It can be ordered through The Times Bookshop, tel: 0245 660916

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## Alan Coren



■ 2,000,000,000: a space odyssey — or is it just another tall story?

How time, if Einstein's shade will forgive me, flies! It seems like only yesterday that you and I were waving goodbye to that nice young couple as they set off for the stars on Pioneer 10, yet here we are, about to celebrate the silver jubilee of that fond farewell. Yes, they have been out there, going like the clappers, for a quarter of a century, and should now, on NASA's best estimate, be around one billion miles from home.

And, in that same time, how much further have those they left behind got? Just one inch: for that, we learnt this week, was the increase in height achieved by the average man since 1971. Paltry? Of itself, perhaps, but set beside those billion miles, incalculably significant.

For the couple on Pioneer 10 were precisely that. They were not in Pioneer 10, as a real live couple might have been. They were engraved, as you may now recall, on the flank of a Y. A young, white, naked couple, of average height and build, waving and smiling to show they came in friendliness and peace, etched by NASA so that the putative inhabitants of wherever Mr and Mrs Man finally fetched up would know just what Earthlings looked like. When that might be was, of course, anybody's guess, and here let me quote from the contemporary report in *The Times*: "Scientists estimate Pioneer's shortest possible lifetime at two billion years, though moving through frictionless space, where the chance of collision with another body is so remote as to be beyond imagination. Pioneer 10 could continue its journey to infinity." Well, *The Times* itself has come on a bit since 1971, and I am here to tell you that that collision is not beyond imagination at all, which is why I am prepared to conjoin this week's two coincidental statistics, the billion miles and the inch, throw infinity into the mix, and have a bit of a think about it.

Look at the snapshot atop this column. Does it depict an amoeba? A mollusc, even? No, it does not, but it would have done, once. And not so long ago, either: hardly more than a few million years back. I should have been a pair of ragged claws, scuttling across the floors of silent seas. The snapshot shows only that I have evolved a bit; and now that you have been reminded where I came from, you will twig where my argument is going.

Forget infinity: let us hop forward a mere million years, to the point where Pioneer 10 has at last collided with alien clever dicks on the far side of whatever the near side might be. They are gazing at the 1971 picture of Mr and Mrs Man. But, given what Earthlings would have looked like a million years ago, do you have any notion of what we might look like a million years hence? You do if you have a pocket calculator able to work in terms of 25 years to the inch. Oh, I can't of course swear that in AD 1,001,996 we shall all be 2,500ft tall, some of us might be no bigger than the Eiffel Tower, but the image of Mr and Mrs Man is still going to be extremely misleading to the gawping things gathered around the wreck of Pioneer 10 — even if matters haven't been further complicated by such military contretemps as might take place over the next millennium, leaving the handful of enlightened survivors to mutate into polka-dotted gastronauts with 17 heads and a talking navel.

Though I shall not, thank God, be there to see it, I fear for the possible outcome of all this. Suppose the things from Planet X not only so like what they see on the side of Pioneer 10 but are also so technologically advanced as to be able to do something about it, and decide therefore to hop/crawl/bounce/drip or whatever they do to their own spacecraft and embark on the long trip Earthwards. An aeon or so later, they will frenziedly chuck open the hatch and hurl themselves onto the surface of this planet, shouting: "Never mind taking us to your leader, we have been crossing infinity for what seems like infinity, we are only flesh and blood, where is that woman with the big jugs and the terrific hips, where is that bloke with the rippling pecs and the perfect teeth?" What, when the visitors discover the truth, will then happen to the luckless skyscraping grotesques who will by then have inherited the Earth. I dare not even begin to imagine.



Peter Brookes  
16 x 96

## A better class of waffle

A publicist advises a politician in trouble always to be photographed embracing his wife. If

in deep trouble he should include his children. But however deep his trouble, he should never risk a speech on the sanctity of the family. You never know what skeleton may leap from the cupboard and dance down Fleet Street. The wise statesman renders unto Government the things that are Government's, and leave to Home the things that are Home's.

Tony Blair may be in no trouble at all. His wife and children may be safely under lock and key. The Shadow Cabinet may have been vetted by Mandelson's Taleban, and declared white as driven snow. But what is this speech in South Africa on Monday about morality, the family and the Decent Society? A plump hostage has surely been dropped in Mother Fortune's lap.

Despite being invited to speak on foreign policy, Mr Blair oddly chose Cape Town to launch the family as a British election issue. According to the Whitehall department will be required to "ensure that its policies nurture these values". But how? To pretend that the present Cabinet has been neglectful of family policy is absurd. Nowhere does Mr Blair promises to make the strengthening of family and community life a "central objective of a Labour government". Every Whitehall department will be required to "ensure that its policies nurture these values". But how? To pretend that the present Cabinet has been neglectful of family policy is absurd. Nowhere does

Mr Blair show his inexperience so much as in vague assertions about administrators "nurturing values".

There are only two options to draw from this bizarre turn of events. Either Mr Blair's speech was mere electoral Muzak, "feel-good" phraseology devoid of content. In that case we can only regret that the citizens of Cape Town were deprived of Mr Blair's more detailed thoughts on world affairs. Alternatively, Mr Blair somehow means what he says. He really does have a political programme, as yet undivulged, for the "traditional family unit".

Labour has just spent a painful decade disentangling itself from its historic commitment to "public ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange". It has accepted the liberalism of the market economy and government deregulation. Government cannot take decisions for private business. Ministers should not second-guess the market. Whatever socialism is about, it is no longer about a distinctive approach to

the planning of a capitalist economy. Thus bereft, Mr Blair's lurch into family values seems like ideology on the rebound. Nor is this the first rebound. Two years ago, he redefined "socialism" as a version of the popular American concept, communism. This involved granting local communities and their institutions more power at the expense of business and central government. I thought this a genuinely creative line for new Labour to pursue. It built on the party's traditional concern for poor neighbourhoods, and offered a local basis for equity in combating need.

New Labour is stalling on communism. I still have no idea how the Shadow Cabinet proposes to "empower" communities, politically, legally or fiscally. Nervous of its record in local government, Labour is hesitant of such empowerment. Nervous of the Treasury, it is hesitant of any move

towards redistributive community taxation. Instead, Mr Blair has plumped for "family policy" to guide Britain into the new millennium. Economic nationalisation did not work. Mr Blair turns his gaze on the nation's domestic life and finds it awash in moral turpitude. He will "nationalise" that instead. Such nationalisation should not place undue strain on the Exchequer.

Mr Blair is always refreshing in debate, so let us press him further. He equates family and community. Philosophers normally link family with the individual. The family as an institution sits over against the "community". Families are by their nature Darwinian units striving for survival in competition with others. Their nature is to resist collective egalitarian pressure. If Labour wants to place the family on an ideological pedestal, Mr Blair must resolve this paradox, and do so other than by merely pleading in aid Halsey's meaningless epigram, "Socialism is collective individualism". The Tories are

having enough trouble equating parental choice with selective entry to grammar schools. If Mr Blair wants to give "the family" primacy in access to schools, hospitals and public housing, he has a tough job on his hands. South African speeches are easy. Queen's Speeches are hard.

I assume what he means in practice is more laws, more intervention and less individual liberty. Mr Blair says he has no desire to interfere in people's personal lives. In that case, what is this new "moral and social code" that he believes should be shaping our society, as against the one in operation now? I am told the present Government is creating a new offence, every week. Labour's proposed interventions — against school truants, late children's parties, parents who fail their prep, noisy neighbours — will make the present regime seem like Liberty Hall. Mr Blair will say that he is just "suggesting". An army of inspectors are now imposing similar suggestions from successive Tory education, health and social security ministers.

If I wish for advice on how to conduct my marriage or bring up my child I will not ask a politician. If Mr Blair thinks Britain is sunk into social and moral decline, and feels the need to warn South Africans rather than Britons about it, he should be more specific. He should be more specific both about the decline and about his cure.

Peter Rabbit and his mother survived Mr MacGregor's vegetable garden without a lecture from new Labour on the need for a curfew and parental control. Somehow the Blair family survived the Eighties without being baked into a moral rabbit pie.

Mr Blair used to be an eminently practical speaker. His party conference hinted at a new and alarming millenarianism. A magnetic force appears to be drawing him away from the dispatch box and towards the Mount of Olives. "Let us not delude ourselves," he suddenly cries, "that we can build a society fit for our children to grow up in, without making a moral judgment about the nature of that society." Really? Who is We? What does he mean by fit for our children? And what, to a politician, is a Moral Judgment about the nature of society? This may be a better "class" of waffle than Neil Kinnock's. But it is still waffle. Leave Home alone, Mr Blair. Just cut the public sector borrowing requirement.

This has been a busy week for Peking's jailers. Cell doors are swinging open and banging shut. Out this week came Yao Wenyuan, one of the two surviving members of the Gang of Four. In went Liu Xiaobo, who has been there before for saying and writing too much. In jail already, and likely to stay in much longer, is Wang Dan, once China's most wanted criminal, who suffers from Liu's disability, but in a more severe form. But Wang Xizhe, a fellow talker and writer of Liu Xiaobo's, who has been in and out of prison since 1974, slipped out of the net over the weekend and is now in Hong Kong. I once spent an evening with Mr Yao and Mr Liu, but have only admired Wang Dan from afar.

Before he suddenly became one of Mao's favourite authors, for one work only, Mr Yao, now 64, was a party writer in Shanghai churning out horatory essays. But in 1965 he wrote a newspaper feature criticising a play by Wu Han, the deputy mayor of Peking. That article was the opening shot in the Cultural Revolution, which was to last until 1976. Wu Han's play was an allegory about a 17th-century mandarin who dared to chide the Emperor; it was really about Marshal Peng Dehuai, who in 1959 had told Mao that his economic policies were causing millions to starve, and was purged. Yao's essay, which Mao subedit three times, led to the death of Wu and his immediate family and the jailing, torture and killing of many other high-ranking party members whom Mao deemed to be Wu's co-conspirators and therefore traitors.

Yao had been brought to Mao's attention by Jiang Qing, his wife. Together with two other sycophants, Zhang Chunqiao and Wang Hongwen, they formed what immediately after Mao's death in 1976 was called the Gang of Four. At their trial they were accused of almost single-handedly causing millions to starve; this made it unnecessary to inquire why millions more enthusiastically collaborated. Yao received the lightest sentence, 20 years, which expired this week. Madame Mao hanged herself in her cell in 1991. Wang died of cancer, and Zhang Chunqiao remains behind bars. I sat next to Mr Yao late one night in 1972 while interviewing Chou En-lai. He never took off his blue cap, squired whipped cream from an easel all over himself, and continually interrupted and joked with the Premier. Seven years later, in the spring of 1989, two nights before the Tiananmen killings, I sat in a small Peking flat, thick with tobacco smoke, and helped Liu Xiaobo, now 37, a university lecturer and three of his friends, including Hou Dejian, China's most popular singer, to translate into English an explanation of why they were on hunger strike to support the demonstrations. Mr Liu subsequently spent 19 months in Peking's notorious Qinching prison. In 1995 he was redetained without charge for seven months after signing human rights petitions with other intellectuals.

Last week Mr Liu and Wang Xizhe, another implacable dissident, published a petition calling for press freedom, government action against Japan which occupies disputed islands in the East China Sea, and talks with the Dalai Lama. They also suggested the impeachment of President Jiang Zemin. In 1995 he was redetained without charge for seven months after signing human rights petitions with other intellectuals.

I doubt whether this will crush Mr Liu; I can still see him, the young university lecturer, racing from group to group in late April 1989 during the early days in Tiananmen Square, scolding the students for not standing up for their political rights. And I recall his words in the speech he was composing in that smoke-filled room on the night of June 1: "We want to tell the people that what the Government calls a small group of troublemakers is actually the entire Chinese nation."

Wang Dan may be only 27, but in the Chinese State's eyes he is a deep-dyed counter-revolutionary. He disappeared in Peking 18 months ago, not long before the anniversary of Tiananmen, where he had been easily the most impressive figure. When he went on the run after the killings, he was number one on China's list of 20 most wanted fugitives. He served almost four years in Qinching, and after his release was endlessly harried and detained. In December 1994 Wang Dan, old and unheard of, brought a suit against the police for violating his human rights and appealed to the UN.

Mr Wang came public attention in 1989, when he was a freshman at the elite Peking University where his father taught. That spring he organised 17 "salons" where liberal intellectuals spoke informally to students. In early April, just before the demonstrations began, he pasted on the university's central bulletin board a 50-signature poster which noted that 200 years after the French Revolution, China was still not free. He edited a magazine which was closed after exactly one edition: it had criticised Deng Xiaoping.

A very cool slender youth in a zipped-up jacket, Mr Wang spoke quietly in Tiananmen Square to flushed crowds, and in a late-night meeting on May 19, with the Prime Minister, Li Peng, in the Great Hall of the People, seen live on television all over China, he said little except to tell Mr Li, who would soon order in the tanks, that "99.9 per cent" of the "students" refused to leave Tiananmen. I imagine that in his mind he remains in that square.

**Nothing to lose but new chains**  
Jonathan Mirsky  
remembers Peking's political prisoners

## Brushed off

TWO LEADING art historians are headed for the libel court after one of them, a cataloguer of the Queen's art collection, described the other as "an ignorant" and "rather presumptuous".

Professor James Beck, a veteran of the art history department at New York's Columbia University, has issued a writ against his opposite number at Harvard, Professor John Shearman. The two men have had a longstanding disagreement about art restoration methods and their latest dispute concerns proposed work on the Scrovegni Chapel frescoes by Giotto in Padua. The case will take place in Italy.

Beck, who chairs the international pressure group ArtWatch, has called for the work to be delayed until it has been further discussed. Shearman, a Brit formerly at the Courtauld Institute, wants the work to proceed. And he sought to warn Paduans against Beck in a leaked letter to the local council.

"I hope that you will understand that James Beck is a rather presumptuous person and, as an ignoramus... he has little authority," wrote Shearman. Sir Ernst Gombrich, the art critic, has

signed a petition supporting Beck's stance on the frescoes. But Shearman, for whom the term "dry as an unbuttered biscuit" might have been invented, groans at the mention of his adversary: "I never wanted to stir up controversy."

Over at the glossy magazine emporium Condé Nast, there is chaos in the offices of its latest



magazine GQ Active. The editor, Francis Cotton, has resigned just days after getting his feet under the desk. "We find it rather strange," admits a spokeswoman through gritted, but perfect, teeth.

### Squeaking

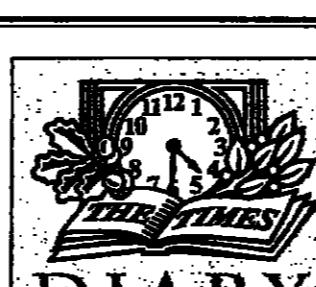
AMONG THE sleek and pampered guests at the Savoy Hotel in London is one who does not pay any bills. A fearless mouse has been spotted in the Thymes Foyer, scampering around the gizmos. The hotel has just undergone extensive refurbishment and redecoration but the mouse survived the upheaval.

"This is a brave mouse," says the unflappable lady who spotted it recently. "It sauntered about in the middle of the room, enjoying the attention." The hotel is investigating.

### The Pango

THEY TALK only of ballroom dancing at the Governor's residence in Hong Kong. Chris Patten is being encouraged to take up the sport in order to woo Chinese support before the handover in 1997. Dancing is the colony's latest craze.

Society functions are no longer complete without a frenzied dis-



play and contenders for the post of Chief Executive after the English leave have been practising their steps. One candidate, Peter Woo, a frightfully rich businessman, so dazzled diners at a recent function that he received a standing ovation. "Chris Patten has been forced into taking a few turns after dinner," one social observer says. "He needs lessons — Angela Rippon should steady herself for a call."

### Doggerel

LATEST to face the teeth of the quarantine laws is Lady Broomfield, wife of Sir Nigel Broomfield, British Ambassador in Bonn. She says she would rather put down Katie, her 13½-year-old English Springer spaniel, than see her endure kennels for six months when the family returns to Britain in March.

So strong are her feelings that William Waldegrave has been talking of the verbal lashing he received when he once stayed with the Broomfields in Bonn. He subsequently advised those planning to visit the Ambassador's residence to stay in a hotel, unless, of course they were fond of dogs.

### Bottoms up

STANDING aloof from the celebrations for Alexander McQueen's elevation to chief designer at Givenchy are his former employers, the Savile Row tailors Anderson & Sheppard. "He was only here for a couple of months," said a manager at the shop. "No one remembers him."

Gieves & Hawkes, McQueen's next employers, were more generous. "He is remembered for being extremely enthusiastic and conscientious," Robert Gieves says. The nation's plumbers and builders, whose trademark is the "cleavage" trouser line known as builders' bottom, side with Gieves & Hawkes rather than with the sour faces at Anderson & Sheppard. It was McQueen who took them into the realm of haute couture with his brow-moppingly chic "bumster" trousering.

P.H.S



كما في المثل



## CAN'T JOIN, WON'T JOIN

Politicians should accept that Britain is ineligible for EMU

The moment of truth on Britain's membership of the European monetary union is approaching and the real decision may be made sooner than either John Major or Tony Blair expects. Regardless of the many arguments that can be made for and against the single currency, there are two practical reasons why Britain will soon have to rule itself out as a founder-member of EMU.

The first reason was given over the weekend by Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister. Membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism for two years is "an absolute precondition" for any country that wants to join the single currency, he said. Since there is not the slightest chance of sterling re-entering the ERM before the general election, Britain will be disqualified from EMU membership in January 1999. Kenneth Clarke has loudly rejected this interpretation of the Maastricht treaty, but his protests have fallen on deaf ears in Europe, and rightly so.

Mr Clarke's interpretation is completely inconsistent with the language of the treaty. This is the treaty which the Chancellor once famously boasted about never having bothered to read. For Mr Clarke's benefit, the relevant passage states: "The criterion on participation in the exchange-rate mechanism shall mean that a Member State has respected the normal fluctuation margins provided for by the exchange-rate mechanism for at least two years before the examination (on which countries are eligible for the single currency). In particular, the Member State shall not have deviated its currency's bilateral central rate against any other Member State's currency on its own initiative for the same period." Since a country like Britain that is outside the ERM does not have a "bilateral central rate", such a country cannot fulfil this criterion.

The European Council could, of course, "simply ignore this provision of the treaty and let Britain in. But such blatant contempt

for the treaty would virtually guarantee an appeal by opponents of EMU to Germany's Constitutional Court. It is hard to see why European leaders would want to jeopardise the entire EMU project in this way.

But even if Germany and the others were unexpectedly to give way on the question of ERM membership, another even more daunting practical obstacle to British membership of EMU has now arisen. This is revealed by the story on our front page today from Charles Bremner, our Brussels correspondent. The European Commission, under strong German pressure, has put forward a "stability pact" which would have to be accepted by all members of EMU. This pact would allow the European Council, by majority vote, to levy enormous fines on the taxpayers of any country whose policies it deemed to be unsound. These fines would, in Britain's case, be equivalent to an additional three pence on the standard rate of tax. That such an infringement on Britain's fiscal sovereignty could be whipped through any British Parliament likely to be formed after the next general election beggars belief.

As the practical details of the single currency become clearer, the entire project is moving further from the realm of practical politics, at least in Britain. Diplomatic reasons for maintaining ambiguity may remain; any chance of helping to prevent EMU happening at all needs to be considered. But, in domestic British terms, the increasingly obvious impracticality of putting Britain into EMU presents politicians with an opportunity. Without splitting their parties or pandering to anti-European sentiment, it is now possible for both Mr Major and Mr Blair quite simply to rule out EMU membership in 1999 as a practical option, as Denmark has done already and Sweden may do soon. Whichever party first decides to do this will deserve plaudits for common sense and honesty with the voters, as well as for its political skills.

## UNDER THE LASH

The Commons must rethink its practices

There could be no surer sign of how blurred the principles of Parliament have become than that David Willetts is blamed by his colleagues more for having written down a conversation with a committee chairman than for having overstepped the mark in the first place. Yesterday the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, paved the way for the matter to be referred to the Standards and Privileges Committee. When MPs debate the motion today, they should try to shake off their cynical cast of mind and see themselves through the eyes of the outside world.

The charge against Mr Willetts is that, as a government whip in 1994, he tried to exert undue pressure upon the chairman of the Members' Interests Committee to minimise criticism of Neil Hamilton. In a handwritten memo reporting the conversation, he recorded that there were two options: the committee could either deem the case to be *sub judice*, or it could "exploit" its Tory majority to protect Mr Hamilton.

This may be how business is routinely conducted in the Whips' Office. But it is not how business ought to be conducted. For other MPs to claim that Mr Willetts's only crime was to commit the conversation to paper — in other words, to be caught — shows how deep the vein of cynicism runs. *Prima facie*, Mr Willetts's real crime was to breach the Chinese wall that is supposed to separate the executive from the legislature.

A whip's job is to ensure that government business is passed through the House. It is perfectly proper for whips to exert pressure upon MPs to vote according to their party's manifesto rather than their consciences. It is not proper for whips to ask committees to put naked party interest before the interest of Parliament. If Mr Willetts did this, he is culpable of lowering the esteem in which

politicians of all parties are now held. Mr Willetts's friends will doubtless argue that these practices are widespread and have always been so. This is not persuasive: the power of the executive relative to Parliament has increased hugely in recent decades. MPs should in any case be wary of confusing practice with principle. If such has been the practice, it ought to be stopped.

The House of Commons now resembles the City of London in the mid-1980s. All sorts of dubious practices, such as insider dealing, were tacitly tolerated in the Square Mile until they were made illegal. In order to prevent traders exploiting the knowledge of corporate financiers, Chinese walls were set up, with compliance officers to enforce them. That was the only way in which self-regulation could work. If Parliament wants to continue to regulate itself, it could learn a lesson from the self-denying ordinance that is now practised in banks.

Moreover, it must be seen to regulate itself justly and openly. To that end, the Standards and Privileges Committee should set up a sub-committee to investigate in open session all the allegations surrounding Mr Hamilton, and ask the Commons to give it the powers to take evidence on oath and allow legal representation. This could easily be done by a simple vote on the floor to amend the committee's standing orders. It would be in line with the Nolan committee that is now practised in banks.

Parliament should remember that its new procedures are on probation. The Nolan committee will revisit them next year to examine how well they have worked. The spotlight shining upon the Commons over the next few months will be fierce. In the interests of all politicians' reputations, it is important that they do not flinch in the glare.

## SECOND CHANCE

Saddam must be kept out of the new Kurdish conflict

International politics rarely permits second chances. When it does they must not be ignored. The unexpected revival of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), evident in its recapture of Sulaimaniya and advances on Degala and Koi Sanjaq, suggests that the strategic advantage grasped by Saddam Hussein through his alliance of convenience with the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) might prove tenuous.

The extent of the PUK recovery is uncertain. The claim that it might move on Arbil, the city whose fall triggered the last crisis involving Baghdad and Washington, looks ambitious at present. Jalal Talabani, its leader, has been circumspect about his intentions. The deal with Iraq struck by Massoud Barzani and the KDP should not seduce the Allies into taking sides in the Kurdish fratricide. The potential power of Iran over the PUK is as challenging to the West as Saddam's courting of the KDP. The United States has rightly urged a ceasefire and offered the offices of the State Department for renewed negotiations. The true interests of Iraqi Kurds would be served by unity within their own ranks. Internal rancour best serves Saddam Hussein.

Whether or not such discussions can be brokered, one matter must be absolutely clear. Iraq cannot again be permitted to use its forces to change the course of Kurdish affairs. When 40,000 troops and 450 tanks

crossed the 36th parallel and then entered Arbil in August, the Clinton Administration claimed that they had evaded US detection. That statement was either a shocking indictment of American Intelligence, or masked an equally disturbing reluctance to take political risks respecting Saddam.

The White House then responded by launching 44 missiles against southern Iraq and extending the no-fly zone up to the 33rd parallel. This move had considerable military virtue, but the abandonment of northern Iraq led most observers to conclude that Saddam had emerged stronger from the overall exchange.

On this occasion there can be no doubt that Saddam has both the willingness and the weaponry in the region to take further part in this conflict. Were he to do so and seduce the Allies into taking sides in the Kurdish fratricide. The potential power of Iran over the PUK is as challenging to the West as Saddam's courting of the KDP. The United States has rightly urged a ceasefire and offered the offices of the State Department for renewed negotiations. The true interests of Iraqi Kurds would be served by unity within their own ranks. Internal rancour best serves Saddam Hussein.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### 'Free and fair' vote in Bosnia elections

From Sir Kenneth Scott

Sir, Sir Terence Clark (letter, October 9) is right in pointing out that the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) did not use the words "free and fair" in their certification of the elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina. But his assertion that none of the conditions specified in the Dayton peace agreement existed "to even the minimum acceptable degree" ignores the following facts:

1. The multi-ethnic Provisional Election Commission, which I chaired during most of the preparations for the elections, ensured that the elections were conducted in an orderly and technically correct way. They passed off virtually without violence, contrary to widespread predictions.
2. A large number of opposition parties took part in the elections. They received substantial financial help from OSCE for their campaigns, had access to state-controlled as well as independent media to put their message to the electorate, were able to hold political meetings and rallies with very little disruption or interference during the two months of campaigning, and won a total of 57 out of the 265 seats in the three parliamentary assemblies.
3. The Election Appeals Sub-Commission, consisting of Muslim, Croat and Serb judges with a Norwegian chairman, imposed a number of penalties for breaches of the electoral rules (mostly by the three ruling parties). These included fines, disqualification of candidates and dismissal of corrupt election officials.
4. None of the parties has seriously challenged the results.

The high turnout of voters (however one estimates the size of the electorate, which nobody knows precisely), and the relative success of the opposition in making inroads into the monopoly of power, demonstrated that the people of Bosnia wanted the elections to be held and had faith in OSCE's assurance of the secrecy of the ballot; and the overwhelming verdict of international observers was that the elections had passed off as well as could have been expected in the circumstances.

It is easy to say that the elections were not "free and fair" in the generally accepted meaning of those words. But they represented a small but important step in the gradual process of democratisation, and all those who have the genuine interests of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina at heart have welcomed the outcome.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH SCOTT  
(Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, January - October 1996).  
13 Clinton Road, Edinburgh.

From Sir John Weston, Permanent Representative, United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations

Sir, I am surprised that my former colleague Sir Terence Clark is "amazed" (letter, October 9).

The Security Council was informed in writing on September 29 by Carl Bildt of OSCE's "certification" of the election results in Bosnia. In his letter to the UN Secretary-General Mr Bildt said that "conditions have been met for decisions envisaged in paragraph 4 of the Security Council Resolution 1022 to be taken" — ie the holding of "free and fair elections".

Of course none of us should pretend that the elections in Bosnia were comparable to elections in Boote or Boston or Berlin. But they tested the political will of the Bosnian people, and by any reasonable standard were a success. That being so, the Security Council had no alternative, and its decision was unanimous.

Yours,  
JOHN WESTON,  
UK Mission to the United Nations,  
1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza,  
885 2nd Avenue, New York 10017.  
October 14.

### Drainpipe appeal

From Mr Edmund A. Booth

Sir, It may seem rather trivial to make a planning fuss over a 53 length of pipe, but cost is not the issue at stake in the case of the appeal to be held over a plastic drainpipe at Binderton House, West Sussex, the Grade II listed former home of Anthony Eden (report, October 10).

As the American Bill Bryson comments in his current bestseller on the casual treatment of our sensitive environment, *Notes from a Small Island*:

It's easy to believe that you can take away chunks of it and that there will still be plenty left. In fact, the country is being nibbled to death.

We owe a lot to our conservation officers for their efforts in protecting us from the "nibblers", but it seems to take a visitor from overseas to remind us of this.

Yours faithfully,  
EDMUND A. BOOTH,  
16 Grange Road,  
Lewes, East Sussex.

Business letters, page 31

### Keeping Britain free of rabies

From Mr Adam Sutcliffe

Sir, If quarantine "has been undeniably effective" in keeping rabies out of the UK (leading article, October 14) where is the causal link between the imprisonment of domestic animals for six months and our freedom from rabies? The tragedy is that there is

raccoon rabies, is specific to a particular primary host. There has never been a recorded case of other than a primary host either introducing rabies into a previously unaffected area or of passing the disease to another animal, be it man or beast.

Vaccination alone provides an improved protection for the UK, and vaccination and subsequent blood testing — to demonstrate that the individual animal concerned has satisfactorily responded to the vaccination (under WHO guidelines) — provide safeguards that are significantly greater than quarantine alone.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER W. BAKER  
(Veterinary surgeon),  
156 Cromwell Road, Whitstable, Kent. October 14.

From Mr P. J. Ilia

Sir, How unfortunate that the news about possible changes in the British quarantine legislation should include what I regard as tendentious comments.

Advocates for change are not just diplomats or soldiers "who are thinking of their own convenience" as you say in your leading article. Neither are they only "rich people who, say, have holiday homes in France and would like to take their dogs back and forth" as suggested by a quarantine kennel owner (report, October 14).

Outraged comments by diplomats and soldiers just attract more publicity and as a consequence find their way into newspapers.

I experienced this obnoxious law first-hand when my dog was locked up for six months and barely survived. I am neither a diplomat nor a soldier, but would very much like to take my dog when we go on holiday to the Continent.

The passport for pets policy works perfectly well in Sweden. The only issue is a loss of income for quarantine kennel owners.

Sincerely,  
PETER J. ILIAS,  
5 Rutland House, Marloes Road, W8. October 14.

From Mr David Hannon

Sir, It has always appealed to me that *Thought for the Day* was intended to be thought-provoking. In this respect, Mrs Anne Atkins undoubtedly succeeded in fulfilling the brief.

Whether I agree or disagree with her is of no significance. However, I certainly found myself forced to sit up and take notice.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID G. HANNON,  
107 Derrybroy Road,  
Crossgar, Downpatrick, Co Down. October 12.

From Mr L. P. Cleminson

Sir, Poor old Church of England. A guilty feeling? Or why react so sharply?

Mrs Anne Atkins was not "attacking" anyone; she was properly fulfilling the purpose of the *Thought for the Day* slot, to stimulate the mind to consider serious subjects. Well done, Mrs Atkins, and I fully agreed with your sentiments and appreciated the unaggressive way you put your point.

Yours faithfully,  
L. P. CLEMINSON,  
Ridgefield, Monyash Road,  
Bakewell, Derbyshire. October 12.

From the Vicar of Christ Church, Chislehurst

Sir, It is little wonder that the ordinary churchgoer and ordinary incumbent are baffled by belonging to the "Church of England". Mrs Atkins and I or any other member are just as much the Church of England as Mr Sheog (letter, October 12) and his General Synod Communications Department. Why should the Church of England need a right of reply to itself?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL ADAMS,  
Christ Church Vicarage,  
62 Lubbock Road, Chislehurst, Kent. October 13.

From Mr Tony Blake

Sir, The Reverend Eric Sheog expresses his concern about the use of a platform (Radio 4's *Thought for the Day*) to attack the Church of England without the Church having an immediate right to reply.

Surely this is the case for most congregations listening to vicars in pulpits across the country every week of the year.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY BLAKE,  
Aspen Lodge,  
Parsonage Lane, Tendring, Essex. October 12.

From Dr S. B. Twivly

Sir, Thought for the day — replace Mr Sheog by Mrs Atkins.

Yours faithfully,  
S. B. TWIVLY,  
Willow Cottage, 16 Moor End,  
Eaton Bray, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. October 14.

From Mr Michael Sparks

Sir, Mrs Bottomley's proposed Department for Education funding, topped up with lottery cash, for dance and drama training appears still to depend on a local authority discretionary award contribution (report, October 14).

Her gesture will be seen as pointless by many young people in inner-city areas where local authorities have no discretionary award budgets at all.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL SPARKS  
(Clerk to the Governors),  
Sir John Cass's Educational Foundation,  
31 Jewry Street, EC3. October 14.

On the run

From Mr M. Gee

Sir, I quote from your News in Brief item today: "A double killer was still on the run last night after absconding from an open prison where he was being prepared for release ... Police ... described him as *dangerous*" (my italics).

Open prison and being prepared for release but dangerous? Am I missing something?

Yours, bewildered,  
M. GEE,  
263 Earlsfield Road, SW13. October 15.



## OBITUARIES

## GIAN SINGH, VC

Gian Singh, VC, who won the decoration in Burma in March 1945, died in Jallandur, Punjab, on October 6 aged 76. He was born on October 5, 1920.

In a display of personal bravery — allied with tactical acumen — which stands out even in the extraordinary annals of the Victoria Cross, Gian Singh overwhelmed singlehanded a series of Japanese strongpoints during the hard fighting for the Irrawaddy port of Myingyan in the spring of 1945. Although it was a victory achieved only at platoon level, Singh's action had an inspiring effect on those around him which was of incalculable value at a time when General Messervy's 4 Corps was experiencing increasing difficulties as its columns pressed on towards Myingyan.

The approach to Myingyan was across a flat, sandy plain. Dust clouds revealed every movement of armour and infantry to the enemy who was strongly dug in with his rear-guards well protected by cleverly sited artillery. Dry gullies and deep ravines lay at right angles across the line of advance, denying passage to tanks. Many of these were screened by thick undergrowth and afforded ample opportunities to ambush the attacking forces.

On March 2, 1945, Singh's unit, the 4th Battalion 15th Punjab Regiment, was advancing down the road between Kamya and Myingyan when it was pinned down by accurate artillery and machinegun fire directed at it from a series of strongpoints and foxholes located in tree-screened positions. Naik (sic corporal, as he then was) Gian Singh, who was in the leading platoon of his company, perceived that a nasty situation was developing in which the whole battalion might well find itself sustaining heavy casualties.

The Japanese defence of



their rearward positions had by this time taken on the semi-suicidal hue which had come to characterise their operations as the heady victories of 1942 turned into the bitter defeats of 1944 and 1945. With grenades strapped to their bodies, some Japanese soldiers were hurling themselves into the midst of British/Indian units or throwing themselves under lorries and armoured fighting vehicles.

Summing up the situation with that tactical intelligence which is instinctive in the finest infantry leaders, Singh determined to take out the enemy foxholes before they could inflict the kind of damage that might seriously affect his battalion's attack. Armed with grenades and a submachine gun he assailed foxhole

after foxhole, subduing the defendants with grenades and mopping up with bursts of sub-machinegun fire.

During this breathtaking singlehanded assault, which astounded all who witnessed it, Singh was himself hit in the arm by small arms fire. But he realised that his task was not finished and refused to go to the rear. A cleverly concealed anti-tank gun was still giving trouble and he rushed it and killed its crew with more bursts of fire and further grenades. He then called to the rest of his section who, much heartened by his robust action, followed him down the lane along which the battalion had been trying to advance, clearing enemy positions along both sides of it.

The action, which was in the

finest traditions of the Punjab regiments of the Indian Army, helped to keep up the momentum of the assault on Myingyan, which fell later in the month after further hard fighting. The Myingyan battle was itself a major component of the campaign against the railway junction at Meiktila, whose capture prised loose the grip of General Honda's Japanese 33rd Army on central Burma. Singh's VC was gazetted on May 22, 1945. Although he had sustained quite serious injuries, he refused to be invalided out of the Army, and insisted on participating in the drive for Rangoon which concluded the Burma campaign later in the year. During this he was mentioned in despatches.

With the partition of India and its Army in 1947, Singh

was drafted to the 11th Sikh Regiment in the new Indian Army. He was to participate in further fighting, during the Chinese incursion into India of 1962, and later in operations in Kashmir. In retirement he farmed in Punjab.

A quiet man of great gentleness and charm — though one of unmistakable military bearing — Gian Singh was devoted to his family. He greatly enjoyed the reunions of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association and only ill-health last year prevented him from making the journey to London to be present on that occasion.

His wife Hardail Kaur died last year. He is survived by three sons and two daughters living in this country and a son who lives in India.

## PROFESSOR KENNETH MUIR

Kenneth Muir, King Alfred Professor of English Literature in the University of Liverpool, 1951-74, died on September 30 aged 89. He was born on May 5, 1907.

IN AN academic career that began with *The Voyage to Ithaca* (published jointly with Sean O'Loughlin) in 1937 and extended virtually till the day of his death, Kenneth Muir became associated, in a way no other scholar of his era quite did, with the bricks and mortar of Shakespeare scholarship. This was exemplified by his editing of the *Shakespeare Survey* from 1965 to 1980, an undertaking which he approached with scrupulous exactitude.

That is not to say that he was purely the bookish type, an advocate of the "Shakespeare in the study" school. As a critic he had grown up with the inspirational G. Wilson Knight and was, like him, steeped in stagecraft. The volumes of the *Shakespeare Survey* which he edited dealt as fully with production as they did with sheer scholarship.

Indeed, Muir's own first forays into print were as a poet, with the volumes *The Nettle and the Flower* (1933) and *Jonah in the Whale* (1935). And his association with the volcanic driving force of Wilson Knight at Leeds ensured that, however deeply he steeped himself in sources and the historical background, he never entirely distanced himself from the heat of the Shakespearean creative furnace as, in the end, it is experienced in the theatre. He celebrated his retirement by doing something he had always wanted to do — appearing as Prospero in a colleague's production of *The Tempest*.

From this constraining environment he was liberated in 1937 when Professor Bonamy Dobree added him to "the Ministry of All the Talents" he was developing in the English department at the University of Leeds. A department able to accommodate both the Marxist Arnold Kettle and the Christian mystic G. Wilson Knight was an obvious home for Muir, who shared many characteristics with both these opposed characters. At Leeds he found ample scope for both his Fabianism and his acting talent, and it was there that he evolved from literary critic and poet into a critic-scholar.

It was there, too, that he



## JOONAS KOKKONEN

Joonas Kokkonen, Finnish composer, died on October 2 aged 74. He was born on November 13, 1921.

FINLAND has been the centre of a remarkable operatic renaissance in recent years, with Helsinki and the Savonlinna Festival becoming essential stops on any musical itinerary, and works by Finnish composers gaining regular hearings around the world. One of the first manifestations of this striking efflorescence was the 1975 premiere of *The Last Temptations*, the only opera by Joonas Kokkonen, Finland's most important composer since Sibelius.

Based on a play by the composer's cousin, the opera tells the story of Paavo Ruotsalainen, an itinerant preacher who led a religious revival in the early 19th century. The protagonist is a gloomy obsessive; the libretto is long-winded and episodic. But Kokkonen's score has extraordinary power: stirring, evocative, elegiac, this is music that, for all its complexity, speaks directly to its listeners.

*The Last Temptations* was a huge success. To date it has been seen more than 200 times

around the world, including performances at Sadler's Wells and the New York Met; and at a time when few new operas manage a run that goes beyond single figures. It was recorded in 1979.

*The Last Temptations* was Kokkonen's crowning achievement, but by the time he wrote it his reputation was already secure. Kokkonen always wrote his works out directly in full score, without preliminary sketches. But in his case this was not an indication of effortless fluency. Composition was a slow and painstaking process for him, and he had exacting standards of self-criticism. As a result, his published output over a 40-year career was restricted to some 50 works, but all are of the highest quality, and establish him as a composer of international importance.

He viewed composition as an organic process, in which a larger form grows out of an initial musical germ or motive, "like a tree from a seed". Four important symphonies demonstrate that thinking on a large scale, while Kokkonen also made significant contributions to vocal and choral music, and to the repertoire for chamber orchestra, string quartet, and

solo piano (he was himself a notable pianist in the 1950s). Though he experimented early in his career with dodecaphony, he never entirely abandoned tonality; his music is intricately organised, but there is an underlying warmth and richness that makes it always approachable and affecting.

Joonas Kokkonen was born in central Finland. He studied musicology and piano at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, interrupting his studies for military service. On graduating in 1949 he became a lecturer at the academy, and in 1953 was appointed professor of composition there, a post he held until 1963. His pupils included such leading figures of the younger generation of Nordic composers as Aulis Sallinen, Paavo Heininen and Pehr Henrik Nordgren. He was elected to the Finnish Academy in 1963, and in 1965 became president of the Society of Finnish Composers.

Kokkonen's first marriage

was dissolved in 1953; his

second wife, died in 1979. He is

survived by his third wife,

Anita Pakoma, by a son and

two daughters from his first

marriage, and by two daugh-

ters from his second.

Paris's attentions, she varies their formal measures with an anguished, almost angry fluttering of her hands. Is that acting or dancing? Whatever, it looks absolutely right, and presages the tremulous anxiety of her later awakening in the tomb.

Dowell was dancing in peak form: his solo in the first scene of Act II, spinning pell-mell round the market place, won a round of applause breaking into the action. Responding to Makarova's warmth, he showed an unusual impetuosity in his acting too, hurtling up from his knees to embrace her almost before the priest had finished blessing their nuptials.

The rest of the cast was familiar, with Michael Coleman's Mercutio acquiring an extra touch of venom in his dying solo. Much interest centred, of course, on the question how the music would sound, reverting to one of the resident conductors after Abovyan's guest performances at the end of last season.

Wisely, Ashley Lawrence made no attempt to imitate the extremes of tempo or volume which the Russian had introduced, and on the whole I think I prefer his more temperate approach. There were moments when one missed the passion Abovyan dragged from the orchestra (Talyb's death was the prime example), but his frequent changes of pace could grow tiresome.

## DAVID GILROY BEVAN



David Gilroy Bevan, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Yardley, 1979-92, died from chronic fibrosis of the lungs on October 12 aged 63. He was born on April 10, 1932.

AFTER an enterprising business career, David Gilroy Bevan dedicated his life to politics, first in his home city of Birmingham, then in the West Midlands and finally at Westminster. He served as a Birmingham city councillor from 1959 to 1974 and sat on the West Midlands County

Council from 1973 to 1982.

After 23 years in local government he became chairman of the West Midlands Transport Authority. In this capacity he initiated a number of pioneering developments, such as the Cross City Rail Line. He collected the presidencies of various local Tory associations during these years — Moseley, Sheldon and Yardley. In 1979 he gained the constituency of Yardley from Labour.

Andrew David Gilroy Bevan was born in Birmingham, the son of a Congregational minister and Evangelical

business. He then trained himself as an auctioneer, valuer and surveyor and established an estate agency in Sutton Coldfield.

His first marriage ended in divorce but in 1967 he married Cynthia Boulstridge, who ran the estate agency during his years as an MP. He was one of Margaret Thatcher's strongest supporters through her 11 years as Prime Minister, and he was greatly saddened by her death.

On demobilisation, he launched various business ventures in Birmingham, including a second-hand car

business. He then trained himself as an auctioneer, valuer and surveyor and established an estate agency in Sutton Coldfield.

His first marriage ended in divorce but in 1967 he married Cynthia Boulstridge, who ran the estate agency during his years as an MP. He was one of Margaret Thatcher's strongest supporters through her 11 years as Prime Minister, and he was greatly saddened by her death.

During his 13 years at Westminster — he lost his seat to Labour in the 1992 election — he played an active part as a backbench MP, but was never rewarded even by being made a PPS. His interest in transport, though, ensured him a seat on the Transport Select Committee, and he also chaired several Conservative backbench committees including on tourism, recreation and leisure and road passenger transport.

Away from Westminster Bevan led a colourful life, at one time owning an island in the Mediterranean, a luxury yacht at Monte Carlo — while at another time almost buying a castle in Wales. But it was often said that at least he made life stimulating for his friends, colleagues and family and his *joue de vivre* was the envy of many. In his younger days he developed considerable skill as an artist and painter, at one stage even running an antique shop in Sutton Coldfield.

The last year of his life was overshadowed by a progressive lung disease although he had abandoned smoking many years before. He is survived by his second wife, the son and daughter of his first marriage and two stepdaughters.

Based on Section 10 of the Insolvency Act 1986, this notice is also hereby given that the above-named company, which is being wound up by the liquidator, has or before 29 October 1996, or as soon as may be practicable thereafter, given notice of the date and place on which the creditors of the company will be called to meet in respect of the debts and charges of the company.

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## NEWS

## Handgun ban to be extended

An absolute ban on the most dangerous handguns, including semi-automatics of the type used by Thomas Hamilton in the Dunblane massacre, is expected to be announced by the Government today.

People will no longer be allowed to keep handguns at home, but in addition to the Cullen inquiry's recommendations the use of larger repeating handguns will be prohibited anywhere except by the police and armed forces. Page 1

## Fines to keep EU budgets in line

Heavy and repeated financial penalties will be imposed on EU states that fail to keep their budget deficits in line with the rules for monetary union under proposals to be announced today by the European Commission. The system has been designed largely under German pressure. Pages 1, 23

## Ulster fears

Fears rose of renewed sectarian violence in Northern Ireland after loyalists announced their intention to march along a contentious section of Londonderry's historic walls. Page 4

## Mini Land Rover

Land Rover is to spend more than £350 million developing a mini four-wheel drive vehicle within two years, aimed at women and young drivers. It will cost less than £15,000. Page 7

## New bedside manner

A new style of family doctor was announced with proposals to deregulate GPs and open the profession to new ways of practice. At present they all have individual contracts. Page 9

## Record paddle

Two Britons have made the first unsupported kayak expedition from the source of the Zambezi to the sea. They covered 1,675 miles in three months. Page 10

## Fighter flops

Russia's MiG 29 Fulcrum fighter is "almost impossible" to navigate and hopeless in medium-range air-to-air combat, according to a new assessment. Page 11

## Top soldier

General Sir Charles Guthrie, head of the Army, was confirmed as the next Chief of the Defence Staff to succeed Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge next April. Page 12

## Nothing succeeds like excess

Unemployed men who go to the pub are making a network of contacts who can help them to get a job. The modest drinker increases his chances of finding work by 21 per cent over a man who drinks little or nothing. But the hard drinker, who exceeds the "sensible drinking" limit of 21 units a week, has a 30 per cent better prospect of escaping the dole queue. Page 3



Scott, Tracie, Jason and Sharon McCarthy, who were presented with their Duke of Edinburgh gold awards at St James's Palace yesterday. They started on the scheme four years ago with a week's expedition together in the Black Mountains. Page 4

## BUSINESS

**Pay off:** More than £69 million has been paid to departing executives of Britain's 350 biggest companies in compensation over the past three years. Page 27

**Water:** The companies received an ultimatum to pump more money into pipelines and improve customer services as the industry regulator announced an early review of price controls. Page 27

**Winners:** The two founders of John Dail Sports are set to make over £12 million each when the sports-wear retailer floats. Page 27

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 index rose 12.1 points to close at 4050.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 88.0 to 88.6 after a rise from \$1.5795 to \$1.5825 and from DM2.4158 to DM2.4378. Page 30

**Motoring:** Motorists in London, Birmingham and Gatwick airports

**Football:** Fenerbahce, of Turkey, attempt to smooth troubled waters as they prepare to play Manchester United in the European Cup Champions' League. Page 52

**Motor racing:** Damon Hill's heroic pursuit of the ghost of his father has provided the most vivid and most unbearably tense story of the sporting year. Page 47

**Rugby league:** The Great Britain tour team was beaten 30-22 by a New Zealand President's side in Wellington, but Phil Larder, the coach, insisted it would have no bearing on Friday's opening international match. Page 47

**Rugby union:** French clubs are acknowledged as the dominant force as the Heineken Cup competition's second round gears up. Page 47

**China turmoi**

The Chinese Government is considering the closure of its north-western borders to all but bona fide business travellers because of religious unrest. Page 19

**AA reports by fax**

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Midlands 416 336 London 416 341

East Anglia 416 328 National Gazette 416 392

N. West 416 339 Weather picture 416 392

Motorway 416 396

London 416 398

Motorway 416 396



## Bottomley plea to help lottery-cash applicants

By JON ASHWORTH

**BUCKINGHAM** October 15: Eduardo de la Torre, the Lord of the Royal Commission for the Repairs to the Royal Palace, has received an audience by the Queen at the Royal Palace. The Queen has been informed of the progress of the work on the Royal Palace.

The Lord of the Royal Commission for the Repairs to the Royal Palace, the Queen has been informed of the progress of the work on the Royal Palace.

Christopher Jonas, PFG chairman, said the venture had been snowballed since starting in 1990. Mr Jonas, former chairman of Drivers Jonas, the chartered surveyor, said: "It just struck me that big companies were giving big sums of money to the voluntary sector, but professionals were doing nothing. What they did have were skills and time, and they could therefore give professional advice for nothing rather than giving money."

He added: "We set out to achieve ten firms giving 100 hours a year each per annum free, and we've got 400, giving £2 million of professional advice free each year." The PFG falls under the umbrella of Business in the Community, which seeks to encourage greater business involvement in communities. The aim is to develop the PFG into a 500-member association.

For further information on the PFG, contact Caroline Knighton on 01222 468177.



Paul Taylor, left, a director of ALEA, and Terry Robinson, deputy chairman, aim to create Russia's first online lottery

## UK team to take lottery to Russia

**ELLIOT BERNARD**, the millionaire property developer, is seeking to create Russia's first online lottery — with help from a former team from London, the hotel-to-sugar trading group. Terry Robinson, a one-time London high-flyer, has rounded up former London colleagues for the venture, which hopes to cash in on Russia's growing affluence (Jon Ashworth writes).

ALEA Limited, a Malta-registered company controlled by Bernard family trusts, is seeking to raise £324 million through a placing on the Alternative Investment Market. Most of the proceeds will be used to finance the Russian National Lottery, which is expected to "go live" in about eight months. Equipment and personnel will be provided by EssNet, a Swedish lottery company. It was recently appointed to upgrade the Littlewoods Pools handling system.

George Walker, Kevin and Ian Maxwell, are among other UK business personalities to target Russia.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Standard Life offers deposit account

**STANDARD LIFE**, the UK's biggest mutual life insurer, is to introduce a deposit account paying interest of up to 5.4 per cent. However, it claims that it does not intend to follow Prudential's lead by launching a bank. The account is to be offered through link up with Bank of Scotland and will initially be aimed at Standard Life's existing customers. The insurer hopes to encourage hundreds of thousands of policyholders with millions of pounds of maturing endowments to keep their money with it.

Standard Life hopes to attract, in the account's first year, £50 million of an estimated £700 million of maturities. It is offering interest of 4.5 per cent on balances of £1,000 to £9,999; the Halifax Building Society pays between 2.15 and 2.6 per cent. Peter Robertson, Standard Life assistant general manager, said: "Because of our much lower operating costs, we can offer rates which are significantly better than the those available from the high street branches of banks and building societies."

## Boot builds profits

**HENRY BOOT & Sons**, the construction, housing and property company, lifted pre-tax profits to £2.9 million from £2.7 million in the half year to June 30 in spite of a decline in turnover to £75 million from £86.73 million. The company said it continued to adopt a cautious and selective approach to construction contracts. Turnover will continue to run at current levels for the foreseeable future, the company said. Earnings were 7.8p a share, up from 7.5p. The interim dividend is lifted to 2.1p a share from 1.95p. The company said unsatisfactory conditions prevail in its markets.

## Jefferson outlet falls

**A STEEP decline in container prices** slashed profits at Jefferson Smurfit Corp, the 46.5 per cent owned associate of Dublin's Jefferson Smurfit paper and packaging group. The US corporation yesterday reported a dramatic fall in third-quarter profits to \$22 million (£20.20 per share) from \$77 million (£30.70 per share) for the same period last year. Sales slipped to \$834 million from \$1.1 billion. For the first nine months of 1996 the company earned \$102 million compared with \$182 million last year. Sales slumped to \$2.6 billion from \$3.1 billion for the first nine months of 1995.

## E&Y to open books

**ERNST & YOUNG** is to follow the lead of KPMG earlier this year and become the second of the UK's top accountancy firms to reveal full financial figures. KPMG, in an attempt to circumvent problems of partnership liability, was the first when its audit division became a plc in January. Ernst & Young plans to publish its report and accounts early in December. Nicholas Land, senior partner, said: "People will be able to see a full set of financials." Unlike KPMG, which included notional salaries and profit share because of its plc status, Ernst & Young will reveal simple partnership figures.

## IAWS advances 14%

**IAWS GROUP**, the agribusiness based in Dublin, lifted pre-tax profits 14 per cent to £18.5 million in the year to July 31, helped by steady growth in all divisions. IAWS, which owns the Shamrock Foods distribution network in Dublin, and has fertiliser, animal feed, and fish protein production operations in the Republic of Ireland and the UK, said turnover rose 8 per cent to £155.4 million. Earnings rose 16 per cent to £11.8p a share. A final dividend of 11.5p makes a total of 11.2p up 10 per cent. Philip Lynch, chief executive, said the company had invested £10 million over the past year.

## Homes starts increase

**UK** housebuilding activity picked up significantly during the third quarter of 1996, according to the National House Building Council. NHBC figures show that more than 40,700 applications were made to start new homes during the period, an 8 per cent increase over last year. Growth was higher in September with private sector activity rising 24 per cent, the largest monthly increase since May 1994. During September sales of new homes, at 616, increased by 8 per cent over the same month last year.

## Texas suffers \$148m loss

**TEXAS INSTRUMENTS**, battered by plunging prices for computer memory chips, said it would offer early retirement to 5,300 employees to cut costs after suffering a \$148 million loss in the third quarter. The loss was attributed to an exceptional charge of \$192 million arising from the acquisition this year of Silicon Systems. Excluding the charge, third-quarter net income plunged to \$44 million from \$289 million. Revenues declined to \$3.84 billion from \$3.43 billion in the third quarter of 1995.

## Finnish inflation rises

**FINLAND**, whose currency joined Europe's exchange-rate mechanism this week, said yesterday that its annual inflation rate had increased slightly to 0.5 per cent in September, from 0.4 per cent the previous month. In September last year, Finland's annual rate of inflation was 0.3 per cent, according to the Government's statistics agency, which said that a 13.6 per cent increase in gasoline prices was the major factor behind the higher inflation, although partly offset by lower interest rates.

## CSX buys Conrail

**CSX CORPORATION** of Richmond, Virginia, the international transport company, has agreed to pay \$8.4 billion in cash and shares for Conrail Inc, the Philadelphia railway operator. The deal will create one of the world's biggest freight companies, serving the eastern half of the United States from Chicago and New Orleans to Boston, New York and Miami. The company would have annual revenues of more than \$14 billion, serving shippers in 22 states with a 29,645-mile (47,807 kilometres) system.

## News Corp expects 20% increase

By GEORGE SIVELL

**RUPERT MURDOCH**, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, owner of *The Times*, told shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday that the current financial year "has opened in a promising way".

He said: "I am on record as saying that we expect a 20 per cent increase in profit for the year. We still expect that and are still aiming for that during the coming year. However, I should say that the first quarter may not be quite up to those expectations, but we will certainly be striving to make up any shortfall."

Mr Murdoch said: "We expect a very good year from our newspaper division in Britain." He told shareholders meeting in Adelaide, South Australia, that *The Times* "is an all-time record in terms of circulation", and that *The Sunday Times* has never been better.

He also said that News Digital Systems, which makes the smart cards used in satellite television, encryption and digital compression technology, will be floated in the two or three weeks as a separate company. It is based half in Britain and half in Israel. Around 20 per cent will be floated.

Pennington, page 29

## Australian PM reviews ownership rules

### Share furore hits ministers

By RACHEL COSTELLOE  
IN SYDNEY

**AUSTRALIA** faces a share ownership scandal after a second government minister was forced to resign for holding shares in a company within his area of responsibility.

Two other ministers, including Peter Costello, Treasurer, came under fire for owning shares that could present a conflict of interest, fuelling talk of further resignations.

Brian Gibson, Parliamentary Treasury Secretary, stood down yesterday after it emerged that he had shares in Bligh Ventures, an investment company he founded, because he could not get a high enough price

group, while granting an exemption that gives Boral Energy access to the Victorian electricity futures market.

His departure came two days after Jim Short, Assistant Treasurer, resigned after it was revealed that he had granted a banking licence to a subsidiary of ANZ, while holding shares in the group.

Australia's opposition party is demanding the resignation of John Moore, the Industry Minister, who revealed yesterday that he had not yet sold 43,000 shares in Bligh Ventures, an investment company he founded, because he could not get a high enough price

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia S	2.09	1.93
Austria	1.84	1.65
Belgium Fr	2.29	2.09
Canada S	2.44	2.04
Cyprus Cyp	0.769	0.714
Denmark Kr	9.65	9.25
Finland Mkr	7.90	7.15
France Fr	8.59	7.94
Germany Dm	2.27	2.09
Greece Dr	3.94	3.50
Hong Kong S	12.88	11.96
Iceland Ikr	1.15	1.05
Ireland P	1.03	0.95
Israel Shek	5.43	4.78
Japan Yen	16.17	17.10
Malta	0.612	0.567
New Zealand S	2.842	2.635
Norway Kr	1.20	1.01
Portugal Esc	25.50	23.70
S Africa Rand	7.75	7.00
Spain Pta	210.00	197.00
Sweden Kr	11.00	10.25
Switzerland Fr	1.25	1.15
Turkey Lira	151.650	149.00
USA S	1.679	1.549

\*\* Rates as small denomination bank notes as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Discount rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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□ Water review is blessing in disguise □ EMU-less London the loser □ Investors hold key to payoff payments

## Mr Byatt opens his umbrella

□ **METHODICAL** as usual, Ian Byatt has prepared for the general election early. By announcing his mid-term price review three years in advance, the water regulator has his defensive umbrella in place, whatever slings and arrows the campaign outrageously throws at him. Whenever Labour complains or the Tories promise, he is already dealing with it, even if the answer is not due until 1999.

Water shares initially fell yesterday, sensing that an early announcement might mean early shocks. Far from it. It is inconceivable that any regulator would forgo a built-in option to review a ten-year price regime half way through. Imagine the political opprobrium, or the line of questioning on the Today programme, if the Director-General decided to sit on his hands for five years.

The first review, announced a few months earlier in the cycle, cut average annual real price rises allowed for 1995 to 2000 from nearly 4 to 1.4 per cent, even though the EU had piled on an extra £24 billion capital spending in between. Second time round, the process should be faster but Mr Byatt will have to work hard to turn real price rises averaging 0.4 per cent for 2000-2005, under his 1994 regime, to real price cuts of 2 per cent.

If a Labour government comes

to power, the existence of a timetable may deter instant unwise action from Frank Dobson, who is hostage to his own pre-election rhetoric. Mr Byatt is already making things easier, talking more about leakages and less about metering as the way to save water.

Mr Dobson's claim, that water companies are not investing as much as they are being paid to, had some statistical backing in 1994-95. Imminent new figures will show if companies again spent under budget because of savings on capital costs, as they planned. If so, Mr Byatt will have more to transfer to customers along with operating savings and, in the current regulatory fashion, challenging targets for future savings. But he will need to guard against expensive new demands floating around in Brussels.

Water companies must expect a tougher line. Unlike gas or telephones, their shares have outperformed the index since privatisation, despite dodgy periods before the last election and the last review — which will doubtless recur. This will count

against them until customers enjoy falling prices as well as reliable supplies.

At least this regulator does not believe in the euthanasia of the shareholder, which is implicit in Ofgas's approach to the comparable Transco monopoly, or Offer's new line on National Grid. Companies have plenty of time to make their own price offers to customers, as one or two did last time. They would be wise to do so.

One might bravely agree to take on inflation risk and offer customers stable cash prices. That is something even the toughest regulator cannot guarantee.

### A tale of two cities

□ **HARD** to credit, as you sit fuming on a becalmed Circle Line this morning, but continental businessmen rather like London's public transport. In surveys it regularly comes up as one of the main selling points to firms thinking of locating there.

The tastes of foreigners are indeed sometimes hard to

against them until customers enjoy falling prices as well as reliable supplies.

Europe is having an unsettling effect on businessmen. In which case they will just have to cope — at least until the general election.

□ **A raspberry** to Greenbury

□ **JURIES** are easily swayed, and a High Court judge can never be influenced by the opinions of a mere newspaper. It is therefore safe to say that if John Clark, former BET boss whose suit against Rentokil for wrongful dismissal should conclude today, gets away with it he will be in a league of his own.

This is no comment about the merits of his case. But he would shoot straight to the top of the table of big compensation payouts made so far this year, whereas if he were forced to rub along on the meagre amount on offer from Rentokil he would have to be content with fourth or fifth place. The most depressing aspect of such a table, compiled by the indefatigable PIRC, is its incompleteness. Not only will the odd payment have slipped through the cracks — several

have been announced in the few days since it was compiled — many are simply not tracked in any public document. Had Mr Clark decided to slink away with the sum Rentokil had agreed, it would never have been revealed to either sets of shareholders, but simply rolled up into the cost of the acquisition.

There is plenty of evidence that the crackdown on this particular aspect of corporate greed predated the publication of the Greenbury report. As ever, it is up to individual shareholders rather than voluntary codes to limit such greed by their own actions, or accept it with as much good grace as they can muster.

### Matching accounts

□ **PROBABLY** the weirdest personal finance product ever dreamed up comes from Hong Kong Bank in Mauritius. Apparently Mauritians are mad about British football but generally ignore all teams save for Liverpool — no, I am not making this up — and Manchester United. The bank has produced two separate accounts, linked to each club. Each point gained in the Premiership puts 0.01 per cent on the interest rate earned by their respective supporters. Just as well no one chose Blackburn Rovers, or they might end up paying the bank.

## Inchcape halts float and sells Bain Hogg to Aon

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

AON, the international insurance broker, has snapped up Bain Hogg, the insurance subsidiary of Inchcape, just hours before it was due to be demerged and floated on the stock market.

The deal is the latest stage in Inchcape's plan to clear hundreds of millions of pounds in debts. Only three weeks ago Inchcape said it would probably demerge Bain Hogg in order to reduce group borrowings.

Aon, the second biggest insurance broker in the world and with a market capitalisation of \$6 billion, paid £160 million for Bain Hogg. Inchape said it expected to shoulder an exceptional loss of £195 million, most of which would be goodwill.

**Saga Petrol set to seek Santa Fe**

BY CARL MORTISHED

SAGA PETROLEUM, the independent Norwegian oil company, is expected to join bidders for Santa Fe Exploration, the North Sea exploration arm of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

Santa Fe, whose assets are thought to be worth \$1 billion, is being auctioned by Robert Fleming, the merchant bank. The oil company produces about 60,000 barrels a day from its interests in the Miller, Gryphon and Alba fields in the North Sea. Michael Bourgeois, Santa Fe's managing director, said: "Saga is evaluating the company at the moment but they have not made a formal offer yet."

Saga would be competing with other major oil companies, thought to include Enterprise Oil and Arco, the US energy company that last year was trumped by Norway's Statoil in a bid battle to take over Aran Energy, the Irish oil exploration company.

Santa Fe has proven and probable reserves totalling 160 million barrels, and interests in 25 offshore blocks in Ireland. It has a 40 per cent share in Enterprise Oil's Corrib North Well in Ireland, which last week made a gas discovery.

Analysis had put Bain Hogg's value at demerger date at about £130 million, although estimates earlier this year had topped £250 million. However, Bain Hogg has had a poor year so far, with pre-tax profits falling almost £5 million to £20 million in the first half.

Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of Inchape, said: "For some months now we have believed that demerger was the most likely route for the divestment of Bain Hogg. However, having secured a price significantly above the value we expect the market to place on the company if demerged, I am convinced that the disposal to Aon represents the best value for our shareholders." Inchape will

continue to use Bain Hogg as a brokerage service on a worldwide basis.

For the demerger, Inchape would have needed to put £13 million into Bain Hogg to give it sufficient capital, while restructuring costs would have been a further £20 million. One analyst said: "The price is slightly disappointing. Another £20 million would have been nice."

Aon has a strong US presence but little exposure to the UK insurance market. Staff numbers in the combined operation will probably be cut.

Bain Hogg employs about 4,500 people worldwide and Aon's UK activities have a 3,000 workforce.

Philip Cushing, Inchape's chief executive, said he had

received a number of approaches, and thought he declined to give names, both Aon and Alexander & Alexander, its US rival, tabled bids last year. Patrick Ryan, chairman and chief executive of Aon Corporation, said Bain Hogg provided a good UK base and "a very strong platform for further development on the continent of Europe, in the Far East, Latin America, the Caribbean and the African continent."

Piers de Montfort, managing director of Morgan Stanley, who acted for Aon, said: "We were competing against the demerger process and our first meeting was only two weeks ago."

Tempus, page 30  
City Diary, page 31

TIE RACK, the accessories retailer, is expanding into a new business selling luggage with wheels and may open up to 25 outlets.

The company has been testing "The Rolling Luggage Company" for the past 18 months at Heathrow and Waterloo Station. By the end of this year, it expects to have five branches at Heathrow and to open its first outlet in Lisbon, Portugal.

Roy Bishko, chairman, said: "We are not looking at creating another Tie Rack, we are adding it on." The business, in which the company has invested about £250,000, was already profitable, said Mr Bishko, and was a way of building on Tie Rack's expertise in airport retailing. He was speaking as the company revealed a 23 per cent jump in interim profits.

Tie Rack made a £604,000 pre-tax profit in the 28 weeks to August 11, compared with £490,000. Sales were up 17 per cent at £48.7 million, although like-for-like sales growth was "between 0 and 5 per cent".

Mr Bishko said: "So far in the second half, trading is generally satisfactory."

Earnings per share were up 11 per cent to 0.7p and the interim dividend is raised 20 per cent to 0.6p, payable on January 14.

## Luggage from Tie Rack

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM



For Roy Bishko it is a case of something different

## Boots sets up shop in Dublin

## Superscape soars on Microsoft deal

BY NOEL FUNG

SHARES of Superscape VR, the virtual reality company, rose 162.5p to 505p yesterday on news of a worldwide licensing and distribution agreement with Microsoft.

The Republic's first Boots The Chemist store, costing £3.6 million, will be included in Microsoft's Internet Explorer Starter kit, which will be distributed to all new Windows 95 users. Users will be given a 60-day trial period before deciding to pay for an upgrade to a full version of VISCAP.

Boots said it was also negotiating to spend a total of £3.25 million on opening a store in each of the two out-of-town shopping developments now under construction outside Dublin that together would employ 190.

John Chiplin, Superscape's chief executive, said: "The agreement gives us a level of distribution we could not even dream of before."

The Microsoft agreement

was announced as Superscape disclosed an increase in pre-tax losses to £2.87 million from £1.75 million for the year to July 31. Losses were 37.9p a

share (30.7p loss). There was again no dividend. Losses were attributed to substantial investment in staff, marketing and the development of new products. Mr Chiplin said:

"We could have reported a profit last year. But we prefer to keep building the infrastructure to get the market while it is still young."

Superscape's shares have had a roller-coaster ride this year. They rose strongly from a flotation price of 194p in April last year to 780p in February but plunged in April to 605p when the company warned of higher losses.

Mr Chiplin said the company would continue its strategy of teaming up with leading technology companies and investing for the future. He said more announcements of alliance would be made over the next few months.

## Gehe sells drugs interests

GEHE, the German pharmaceutical wholesaler that is waiting to hear if it may bid for Lloyds Chemists, has sold its generic drug manufacturing operations for DM6.2 billion (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Gehe has sold four separate groups and its majority stake in a fifth unit. The largest single operation, Azipharma, has been sold to Sandoz, the Swiss chemicals and drugs giant, for DM640 million.

Karl-Gerhard Eick, finance officer, said the move was not directly related to Gehe's attempt to take over Lloyds. Gehe and Unichem are waiting to hear if the Department of Trade and Industry accepts they have found possible buyers for most of Lloyds' wholesaling business.

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BT weekday calling rate to the USA and Canada	BT weekday calling rate to the USA and Canada
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## Geo market assault poised to raise £11m

BY OLIVER AUGUST

GEO Interactive Media, the software company run by Israeli elite soldiers, will be capitalised at £100 million when trading in its shares gets under way on Friday. Shares are being placed with institutional investors at 100p each. Net proceeds of £10.9 million will be used by the company to market its internet transmission programme, which uses a new form of streaming data. The placing is being underwritten by Parnture Gordon and represents 12 per cent of company equity. The remaining shares will be held by the management.

Emblaze Creator and Emblaze E-mail, the two main products, will be distributed globally and are believed to be at least one year ahead of similar programmes developed by competitors.

Nafati Shani, Geo's executive chairman, is the former controller of the Israeli Prime Minister's Office. He primarily employs Israel Defense Force military programmers in their early twenties.

Geo's main product range is Emblaze, the world's first solution for real-time multimedia transmission over the internet.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Share rise ready for pause after new high



Water shares fell as Ofwars' Ian Byatt revealed new plans

THE London stock market was showing signs of running out of steam last night and is expected to open lower across the board when trading resumes this morning.

As one leading market-maker told *The Times*: "The market is starting to look tired after a good run and everybody has got stock. The options are due to expire later this week and there are a lot of open positions out there."

The FT-SE 100 index extended its record-breaking yesterday, but with the Dow Jones average dipping back below 6,000 in early trading, the gains in London were quickly halved. The index ended 12.1 points higher at a new closing high of 4,050.8.

Blenheim, Britain's biggest exhibitions company, raced up 23p to 496.1p as United News & Media, publisher of the *Daily Express*, emerged as the long-awaited bidder.

An agreed offer of 500p a share values the entire group at £592 million, but hopes that an auction for Blenheim would develop have been dashed. VNU, the Dutch publisher, which last week bought a 14.9 per cent stake in Blenheim, has thrown in the towel. Reed Elsevier is believed to have pulled out of bid talks with Blenheim last week. UN&M closed 40p higher at 693.1p.

The water companies took a tumble after Ian Byatt, the industry regulator, announced that he was bringing forward his price review by five years to 1999. Among the losers were Anglian 11p to 542.1p, Hyder, 17.1p to 695.7p, Thames, 5p to 547.1p, United Utilities, 9p to 580p, and Yorkshire, 10p to 605.1p. Wesser Water also tumbled 19.1p to 325p on reports that WWMX, the old Waste Management Group, may dispose of its 20 per cent stake.

Royal Bank of Scotland dropped 13p to 522.1p as BZW turned seller. It has cut its pre-tax profit forecast from £709 million to £675 million because of increased competition for its Direct Line insurance subsidiary.

Profit-taking left Manchester United 26.1p lower at 532.1p although City speculators are reluctant to rule out the possibility of a bid. In the past week the names of Granada, up 19.1p to 885p, Whitbread, 1p firmer at 696.1p and even IMG, the

international marketing group headed by Mark McCormack, have been tipped as potential suitors. But the Manchester United board still controls more than 20 per cent of the shares and that seems to rule out the prospect of an aggressive bid being made.

Commercial Union ran into profit-taking after its recent speculative run, with the

discounting was taking its toll on margins and revenue.

BSkyB, the satellite television company 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, continues to go from strength to strength. The price edged towards the 700p level, touching a high for the day of 683p before ending 18p dearer at a new high of 676.1p on turnover.

Standard Chartered fell 18p to 693.1p as its own broker Cazenove turned seller. It has told clients it has become cautious about the Far East loan book and that the shares are starting to look expensive. Brokers say Standard is due to talk to institutional shareholders soon, but nothing new will emerge from the meeting.

price ending 12p below its year's high at 663p. Brokers have been discounting claims that the group is in talks with ABN Amro, the Dutch bank, about a possible merger.

Smith & Nephew dropped 4.1p to 206.1p after BZW turned seller of the stock.

Analyst Steve Plag warned that the group's markets in the US were fiercely competitive and "ferocious", and said that

over almost seven million shares. It follows a bullish statement to shareholders by Rupert Murdoch at News Corp's annual meeting at which he painted a bright picture of prospects for satellite television. He said: "With regard to BSkyB's profit this year, it will be up again."

Inchape, the international trading group, rose 4.1p to 284.1p after finally announcing

its 1995 results. The group's profit for the year ended June 30 was £102.2 million, up 11.1 per cent on the previous year.

Its chairman, Ian Byatt, said: "The group's performance in 1995 was excellent, with all major divisions contributing to the

strong growth in sales and earnings. The group's market share in the UK and Europe has increased and we are well positioned for the future."

On the back of the strong results, the group's share price has risen 10 per cent in the year to date.

Its shares closed 18p higher at 284.1p.

Its shares closed 18p higher at

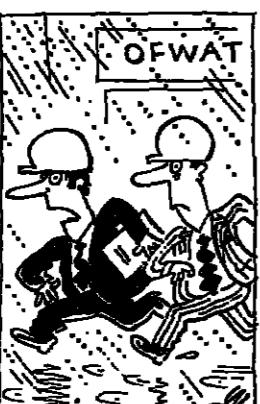
THE  
TIMES  
CITY  
DIARY

Vacant spot for Internet expert

AFTER his run-in with the Bank of England last week, Lord Mancroft probably knows more than most about the problems of Internet banking. What a pity that he will not now be sharing this knowledge with visitors to the Offshore 2000 conference in London next month. Lord Mancroft — who, in spite of a lack of banking experience, found himself chairman of the European Union Bank — was due to take part in a panel discussion on the impact of the Internet on offshore financial services. But even before the Bank of England started warning savers to treat EUB with extreme caution, it seems he had decided to pull out. The conference organiser, Philippe Gelin, has tried to get a more technically knowledgeable speaker from EUB — so far without success. "There's not much response from the bank in Antigua," he said. Now there's a surprise.

Last-minute deal

INCHCAPE took no chances with the disposal of Bain Hogg, its insurance broking subsidiary. Having announced it was planning to demerge the insurance business, it started talks with Aon, the giant insurance broker. But at 4am yesterday as the deal was about to be signed, listing prospectuses for Inchcape's 36,000 shareholders were rolling off the presses, just in case the sale fell through. "It was a last-minute deal, really gripping stuff," said Philip Cushing, Inchcape group chief executive.



FRANK FIELD, the MP who chairs the Social Security Select Committee, has penned How to pay for the future. Building a stakeholders' welfare, on how to reform pensions and savings. But it seems he could do with a little funding help himself. "I've paid for the book to be published," he said at its launch in the Commons yesterday. "And I'd like states to cover the cost."

New fax, old facts

THE British Airways German subsidiary had a bad day yesterday. First a business paper reported BA would halve its operations in the fatherland. Then an employee unwittingly made himself the ideal candidate for being restructured and outsourced. The nameless man faxed out a year-old press release announcing that BA was inviting bids for 60 new aircraft.

Sharp dressers

JOHN WARDLE and David Makin, respectively the founding chairman and chief executive of JD Sports, who will become multimillionaires on Monday when 30 per cent of the company is floated, wore sharp City suits yesterday to address investors and the press. In the company offices and shops, however, they wear the labels that have made them rich. Mr Makin, 32, whose favourites are Lacoste and Nike, said that he is not to be found wearing that fetching Eighties item, the shell suit. However, he conceded: "I may wear one in the year 2000, when they come back into fashion."

# Water, water everywhere but never a drop in price

The Ofwat review signals a demand for the industry to improve, says Christine Buckley

The fresh review of water prices will go a little way to stem the recriminations that have welled up around the industry. But only by a little.

Last summer's drought, after one of the wettest winters on record, brought restrictions and heaped public approbation on the water companies, including Yorkshire Water which put local hospitals on emergency alert for rota cuts while allowing 33 per cent of its resources to leak away.

Elsewhere hosepipes were declared a luxury while some customers were poisoned by their water company's outpourings and incensed environmentalists complained of dirty beaches. To add insult to injury water bills have risen steeply on the back of a formula that is designed to foster investment. Meanwhile, the shares of water companies have raced ahead in the markets and shareholders have benefited from handsome dividend payouts.

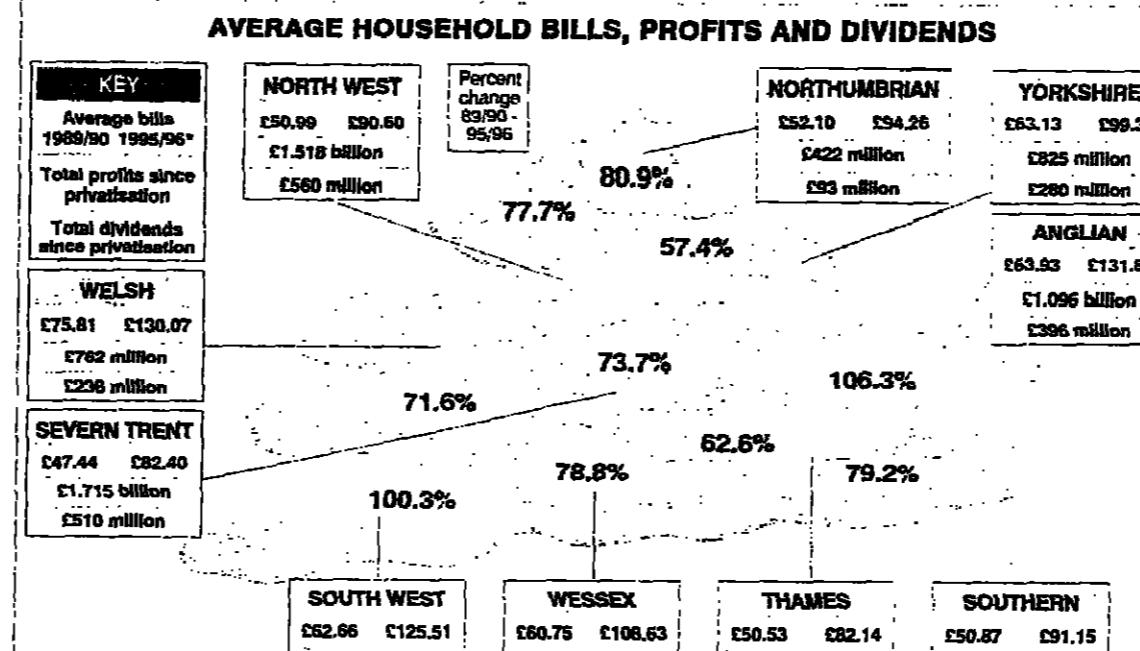
According to the Labour Party, and a host of consumer groups, the water industry has been descending into farce. For them water has been the worst offender in terms of customer service and cost among the privatised utilities, while the companies have amassed large sums of cash to reward investors or to buy other companies.

Small wonder that Labour has mounted a concerted attack on the water companies since last summer's drought. It has been at the heart of the party's criticism of the performance of the privatised utilities and a primary justification for the windfall tax if it forms the next government. According to Salomon Brothers, the brokers, the market is discounting a £5.4 billion tax for the water sector.

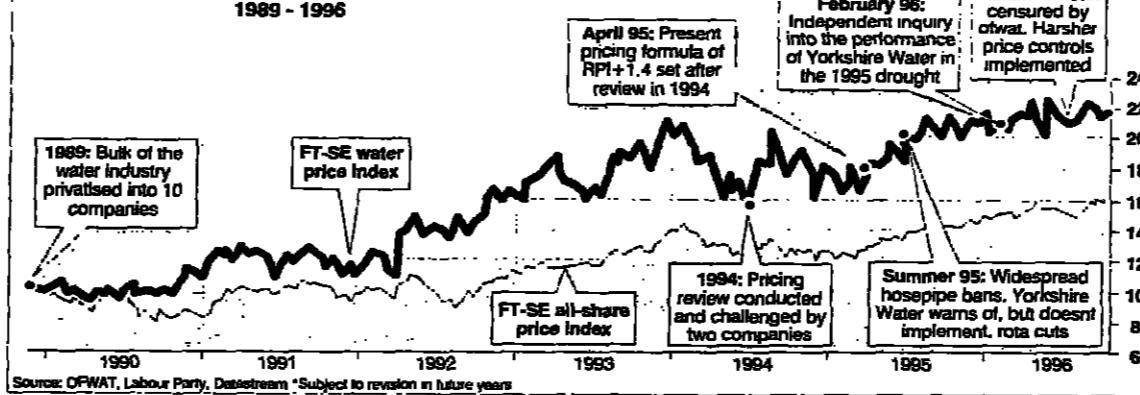
Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, has fought a campaign against the framework under which the water industry was sold into the private sector and by which the City has made its investments. A recent report highlighted a write-off of debt of £5 billion for the ten large water companies when they were privatised, tax allowances on £7.7 billion in assets and the freedom from mainstream corporation tax on core businesses...

Mr Dobson has complained that since the sale of the regional companies in England and Wales they have produced profits of £10 billion and have paid out dividends of £3 billion.

According to the Centre for Regulated Industries, unmeasured water bills — the majority of bills covering those households not on meters — have risen more than 77 per cent across England and Wales since the ten largest companies were sold in 1989 and joined the 19 smaller private companies already in commercial hands. Within that band of price rises, some regions, including Anglian, South West, Folkestone and North Surrey, have seen



## WATER INDEX AGAINST FT-SE 1989 - 1996



their bills more than double. In a naturally monopolistic industry price controls are all the more crucial to deliver the customer benefits that competition might be expected to produce.

Increasing prices in water have been excused by the regulatory guidelines and by the companies as a means to fund the large amounts of investment needed to maintain the network, and to produce water at the higher standards now dictated by Europe. Critics have argued, however, that investment generally is the domain of investors and that customers are being asked to fund capital expenditure without the rewards they would expect if they were investors. Along with pressure from Labour and consumer groups, who have pressed for tougher compensation penalties for poor service, the water industry will face further scrutiny this year when the Commons Public Accounts Committee reviews the performance of the regulators.

The all-party committee will question all the utility regulators on the back of a critical report from the National Audit Office, the public-sector watchdog. Political scrutiny in this

government will precede a greater shake-up of the regulatory process if Labour wins the next election.

Mr Byatt, whose review of the pricing controls ahead of the scheduled date had been largely expected although its timing has been a surprise, is also seeking to exert tougher control over water supply amid an increasing trend towards consolidation of water businesses and links with other utilities.

The merging of water companies — at present being proposed by Severn Trent and Wessex Water for South West Water; already achieved by the Lyonnaise des Eaux takeover of Northumbrian Water — removes comparators by which the regulator can determine pricing framework. The merging of water companies with electricity businesses, which has now produced three multinationals, further hampers the transparency of operations.

Mr Byatt, who has condemned such amalgamations on many occasions unless they can deliver sufficient customer benefits, is keen to fire warning shots to the effect that if companies can produce cost efficiencies by mergers they can also serve up

customer benefits through price constraint. The reference in the announcement of the new review that Mr Byatt will be looking closely at the ability of the companies to maintain supplies and control leakage is a clear signal to the companies that they have three years — the date of the new review — in which to improve their performance to the customers. It is also a recognition that the shortages in supply of last summer had got out of hand. He is stipulating that if savings are made in the companies then a substantial amount must be ploughed back into investment.

Mr Byatt's demands on the privatised water industry characterise the dichotomy of commercial public services. They are driven by pressure from the City to produce short-term results in the form of dividends and profit increases, while the long-term needs of water provision demands consistent and plentiful investment. Water, its critics would say, has proved notoriously short-term. The regulator needs to act to stop flagrant short-termism before the industry is further damaged in terms of its ability to do its job and supply water.

After all, it is debatable whether

hosepipes are indeed a household luxury. Without decisive action the laughable advice of Severn Trent to gardeners suffering from hosepipe bans to pave over their lawns may not seem quite so risible in future.

Alternative urban sources are saving money, Susan Pape finds

## Firms tap into underground supply

Water source trials are being conducted by Coca-Cola & Cadbury Schweppes Beverages through a well recently sunk at its factory site in Wakefield, west Yorkshire. If the trials are successful, the drinks group will consider the operational and commercial benefit of abstracting underground water for some of its production.

After two long, hot summers and an exceptionally dry winter, drought is an ever-present threat. Even as winter approaches, rainfall levels are reported to be the second-lowest in 200 years. Reservoirs are not as full as they should be and hosepipe bans still affect some areas. Increasing numbers of businesses are looking at alternative means of water supply and for many of them — like Coca-Cola & Schweppes — the answer could lie beneath their feet.

According to David Lerner, of the department of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Bradford, millions of gallons of untapped water are trapped under the streets of Britain's towns and cities in aquifers. Tapping into such a supply would not only cost companies a fraction of what they pay for mains water, but would mean never having to suffer drought restrictions. "Groundwater under cities is a valuable resource that is not being fully utilised," Professor Lerner said.

It was a different matter at the turn of the century when the local industry in cities like Bradford took its private water supply from boreholes. "But the practice went out of fashion as factories closed and the privatised water companies came into being. Boreholes were simply covered up, lost or forgotten," he said. Now Professor Lerner believes that companies facing further drought restrictions are looking once more for possible supplies underground.

Allied Colloids, the chemical manufacturer, found it was sitting on untapped reserves and sunk its first borehole in 1967. It now has three in use on the 50-acre site in Yorkshire, supplying 27,000 cubic metres of borehole water a year — about 30 per cent of its total



needs. Although there is a treatment, handling and management cost, the company reckons to save an average of £150,000 a year. Mike Beecher, environmental services manager, said the water contained more dissolved salts than the public supply, but was suitable for use in cooling and cleaning processes.

"You have visions of a nice little well with a drawingstring and bucket — but it's not like that at all. In fact, you wouldn't notice the boreholes if you didn't know where to look," he said. "The water is pumped up via a discrete 12in hole and

fed along enclosed pipework to our treatment plant."

At Abbey National's head office in Baker Street, London, an underground spring discovered 50 years ago supplies all the building's water needs. Just over five million gallons a year are pumped to the surface and put to a variety of uses that include drinking and catering. Abbey National reckons to save about £15,000 a year by using its own supply at Baker Street. Steve Smith, building facilities controller, said spring water tasted better than mains. "And we don't

face restrictions in a drought," he said. Organisations wishing to drill for water must apply to the Environment Agency for a licence. Getting one is not a foregone conclusion. Much depends on the local geology and whether water is available — and in what quantity. John Aldrich, a groundwater protection principal at the EA, said the difficulty was knowing how much water was available. "We know there's a lot but it's almost impossible to put a figure on it and we are concerned about having large numbers of big users taking water from a small area. It would be like everyone draining the same bucket," he said.

However, Michael Price, a hydrogeologist at the University of Reading, believes there is a plentiful supply. "There is far more in the ground than there is in all the lakes and reservoirs put together," he said. "I'd like to see more efficient use made of it in conjunction with other water sources, but engineers like reservoirs — although they are expensive to build they are easy to understand. An aquifer doesn't cost you anything, but it is a more difficult concept."

"However, if climate changes are going to bring wetter winters and drier summers are predicted, water storage becomes very important. I would say that aquifers are the perfect storage places — and they are generally underneath towns and cities."

Professor Lerner's studies have taken him to Nottingham, where unused groundwater levels are so high that flooding is a risk, a problem that also threatens some London basements, and to Merseyside, where underground water levels, kept down in the past by extensive use, are now rising.

"As we become more aware of pollution risks from sewage and industry, there is a tendency to abandon use of this resource. But this leads to groundwater levels rising and causing geological problems," he said. The hazards could be reduced by using the water for industrial purposes. "Making full use of urban groundwater is surely a sound part in the development of the sustainable city."

## BUSINESS LETTERS

More British Gas tales of billing errors, delays and cut-off threats

From Mr R. A. Turner

However, it included a further 42 days standing charge (to September 13 instead of August 21), and curiously makes no mention of any payment being received. I will not pay the balance until I receive the next quarter's bill!

R. A. TURNER

25 Owen Gardens,

Woodford Green, Essex.

Truth or despair?

From Mr Alan Robinson

Sir, In the light of the recent British Gas "new computerised" billing debacle how can Stuart Beadle (Business Letters, October 8) be sure his "new computerised communications system" is telling him (and us) the truth?

On September 12 I read

my meter, recalculated the bill and sent it with details of my calculations, my cheque and a letter of complaint.

I am not too surprised

that no reply was forthcoming

but I have received a new bill confirming my calculation.

## Don't hinder Britain's successful utilities

From Mr Tom Derry

Labour has recognised the potential of BT and we should hope this partnership continues. BT, especially, provides a good service and has managed to produce some large profits, despite hefty regulation. We are not ashamed of other British companies whose accounts are firmly in the black.

Let us not hinder success stories too much.

Yours faithfully,

TOM DERRY,

2 Park Mansions,

Prince of Wales Drive,

SW1.

Leak from Lloyd's is welcome after traumas

From Mr Allan F. Hepburn

next year's Lloyd's AGM, for example.

Why the need for secrecy in the interim? Surely after the horrendous traumas at Lloyd's over the last ten years, there is a need for total transparency in these matters?

Frankly, I am very glad that there is a "mole" on the Council of Lloyd's.

Frankly,

ALLAN F. HEPBURN.

31 Cheyne Walk, SW3.

## Extension of Docklands Light Railway

From Mr Neil Sprinks

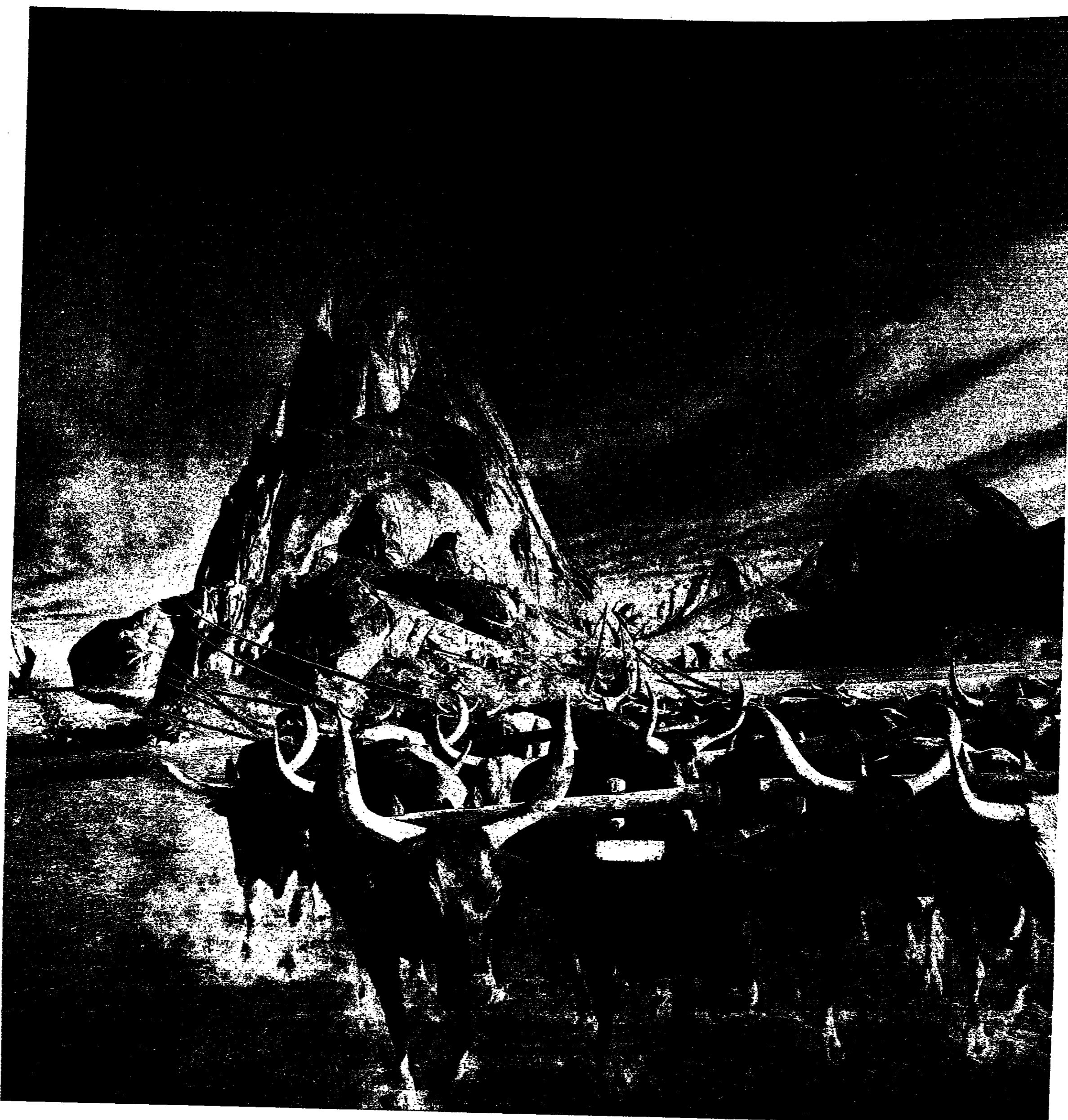
over present travel, you mention a journey time from Lewisham to the City of 30 minutes: South Eastern Trains ex-Br, already get you from Lewisham to Cannon Street in as little as 12 minutes!

Yours faithfully,

NEIL SPRINKS,

2 Raglan Close,

Dinas Powys,



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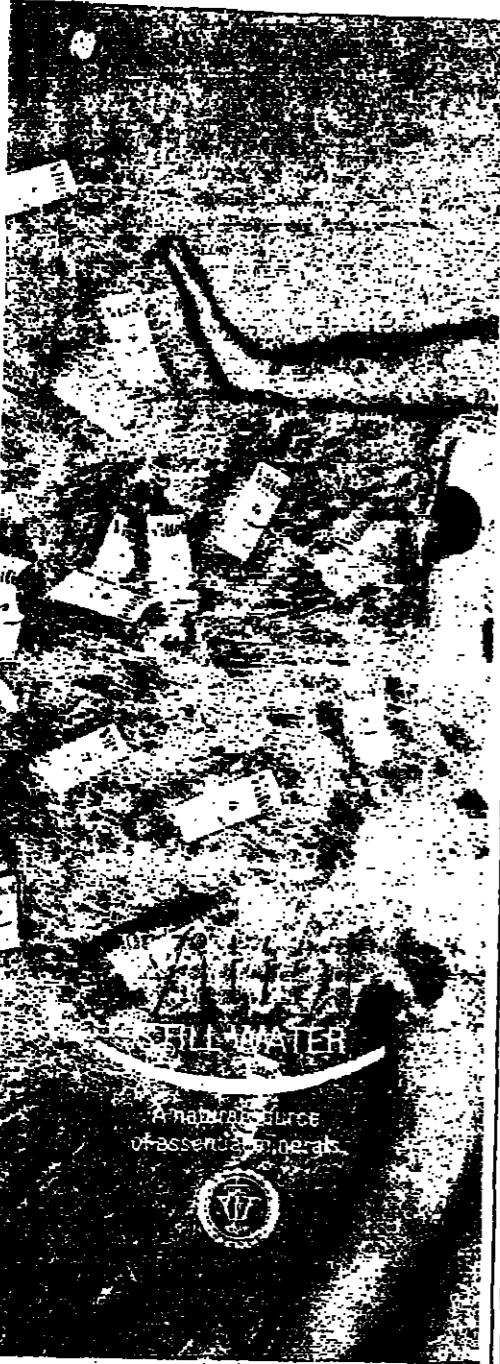




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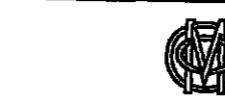
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RECRUITMENT









## ■ MUSIC 1

A string quartet setting of Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* receives its British premiere next month...



## ■ MUSIC 2

... and in the same festival of American music, unknown works by Frank Zappa are also aired



## ■ MUSIC 3

Richard Hickox presides over a forward-looking 25th anniversary party for the orchestra he began



## ■ FAST RISING

Straight out of school, straight into the West End: two teenagers on the thespian road

# A Howl for all seasons

Allen Ginsberg's poetry interpreted by a string quartet?

Nigel Williamson reports

**W**hen the Kronos Quartet made its debut at New York's Carnegie Hall with Allen Ginsberg in 1994, the poet got very excited at the prospect of uttering four-letter words in that revered house of culture. "He was right. That's what it's all about," says David Harrington, the leader of the quartet, which for 23 years has been at the forefront of contemporary music, commissioning and performing some of the most challenging music of our time.

Harrington did not mean that either Ginsberg or the Kronos Quartet seeks to shock out of a mindless desire to outrage. He is far too purposeful for that. Shock, he believes, is a vital weapon in art, a device to break down barriers and destroy stultifying convention. "I don't subscribe to the idea that quartets consist of two violins, viola and a cello playing in some cloister on a Sunday afternoon," he says. "That's not the music I know, whether it's Beethoven, Haydn or anything else. I have spent my career trying to bring the world we know into this medium called music."

One noted American critic has still never forgiven the quartet for following a performance of Berg's *Lyric Suite* with a medley of television theme tunes. "He cannot listen to anything we do since that—and it was 15 years ago. We did it to make the event memorable, so I suppose we succeeded on one level."

Ginsberg has always had a similarly iconoclastic attitude. The American poet once said of his best-known work, *Howl*, that he had set out to write a poem so strong that a clean Saxon four-letter word might enter high-school anthologies permanently and deflate tendencies to authoritarian strong-arming.

He succeeded, and next month an extraordinary collaboration of the iconoclasts, in which the Kronos Quartet commissioned the composer Lee Hyla to set *Howl* to music, receives its British premiere at

**FESTIVAL DETAILS**  
American Independents, a celebration of the maverick voices of American music, dance, literature and visual art, runs at the South Bank Centre in London until November 19. Highlights include a London Sinfonietta series with John Adams conducting the premiere of his new *Gndary Buttons*, and the UK premieres of two works by the late Frank Zappa. Other music ranges from John Cage and Charles Ives to Burt Bacharach, rock and modern jazz. Bookings and information: 0171-960 4242

the Festival Hall. It will be the climax of a month-long festival called *American Independents* that began on the South Bank this week (see box).

So why is a musical setting of a poem published 40 years ago the highlight of a programme showcasing contemporary America? Harrington has no doubt. "As time goes on, *Howl* gets larger in its scope. Ginsberg described the poem as an emotional time bomb, and it is still going off continually. There are so many images that have become indelibly printed on the American psyche that it is part of the American experience. And it is still relevant."

Ginsberg's nightmare vision of American society, which encapsulates the Beat philosophy, has continued to strike a chord with every new rebellious generation. Hyla, who set it to music, was one year old when Ginsberg wrote the 25-minute-long poem.

Members of the Kronos Quartet were not much older. Yet the result of their collaboration is stunning, disturbing and beautiful at the same time. "I wanted music that chal-

lenged the words, that didn't necessarily pat the poem on the back, but was arguing with it," says Harrington.

Ginsberg was coaxed into reading his greatest poem in a studio for the first time. Hyla's complicated score, with its elaborate timings which have the quartet cueing off rhythms and speech in the text, had to be adapted during the recording as Ginsberg contributed to the process. "As a poet, he is like a performing musician," says Harrington. "You can feel his centre of energy. It was like playing a quintet with a master saxophone player, except that Allen's voice was the fifth instrument."

The Kronos Quartet has just released the studio recording of *Howl* on an album of highly political material, right down to the tattered and torn American flag by Robert Mapplethorpe on the cover. Uniquely for the quartet, throughout the album the words enjoy equal status with the music. Also included are the chilling voice of former FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover, with music by Michael Daugherty, some found poetry in the inscriptions by

hobos on a fence-post 50 years ago in a composition by Harry Partch, and Scott Johnson's setting of the voice of I. F. Stone, the great liberal commentator.

"It never started out as an album," Harrington says. "We commissioned the works over five years and it only became clear much later that there was a larger sense of geometry to those pieces. Hoover had secret files on Ginsberg and I. F. Stone."

Harrington and the Kronos Quartet are relentless promoters, patrons and performers of contemporary music, sound junkies forever seeking new composers. There are currently 45 new works under commission and one sometimes wonders whether serious modern composition could even survive without Kronos.

Driving Harrington is his perfectionism. A quest for "the musical equivalent of Einstein looking for the theory that said everything. I would like to find an album that in this confined amount of time explains it all. To me, that is the challenge." In his search, Harrington has left few musical avenues

unexplored. The composers currently writing for Kronos come from every part of the world. Even as *The Times* interviewed him over breakfast, Harrington was enthusiastic about contacting a new composer in Russia whom he had been told about after the previous night's concert.

One of the quartet's most successful albums was *Pieces of Africa*, featuring compositions from Morocco, Uganda, South Africa, The Gambia

and Sudan. While painters such as Modigliani and Picasso absorbed African influences, Harrington says it is "shameful" that Western musicians for so long ignored the continent's music. "Can you imagine what it would have been like if Beethoven had heard music from Zimbabwe, how different musical culture might have been?"

• The Kronos Quartet are at the Festival Hall on Nov 19. *Howl USA* is available on Nonesuch

CONCERTS: Richard Hickox conducts an eclectic weekend of new works

## Here is the new from London

THE NEXT three concerts by the City of London Sinfonia feature Beethoven, Schumann, Mozart, Vivaldi, Bach and Handel. Its members could be forgiven, then, for looking less than relaxed with free improvisation during their twenty-fifth anniversary weekend at the Barbican. *Playing in the New*. But it is an open-minded, flexible team, and if the programme lacked high radical ambition, Richard Hickox engendered a quiet sense of exploration. The



Richard Hickox showing "a quiet sense of exploration"

provided by racheting wood-block and flutter-tongued cor anglais to Diana Burrell's voluptuous song cycle *Blowing the Fuse*; two women's voices high and dry above the turbulent cross-currents of Maxwell Davies's virtuosic *Westerlings* (performed by the Joyful Company of Singers); and the glorious rough edge

tralto, using the cor anglais to reveal the violence behind the poet's death wish, wrapped up as it is in seductive imagery.

Simon Spear's *New Ribbons*, selected from the CLS/Society for the Promotion of New Music's workshop, provided a festive concert overture with real rhythmic vitality.

Bassist and composer Barry Guy is a force of nature. Always on the edge of anarchy, at his best he can pack chaos into concrete structures to make exquisite music. His hugely demanding *Concerto for Orchestra*, *Fallingwater*, reveals both his wildness and his ability to master it, but the CLS has not yet found a balance between the two.

Still, this was a weekend for "playing in" the new in all senses. Some of these premieres deserve further warming up.

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**CHOICE 1**  
Jez Butterworth's  
thrilling play  
*Mojo* comes to  
the West End

VENUE: Opens tonight at  
the Duke of York's



**CHOICE 2**  
... while Edward  
Bond directs his  
new play, *In the  
Company of Men*  
VENUE: Now in preview  
at the Barbican Pit



**CHOICE 3**  
Curtain up on  
Cliff Richard's  
*Brontë* musical,  
*Heathcliff*  
VENUE: Birmingham  
Indoor Arena



**POP**  
Britfunk, peppered  
up with cyber  
cosmic karma,  
proves a  
winning formula  
for Jamiroquai

**LONDON**

**MUSICAL LINKS:** Martyn Brabbins conducts the City of London Sinfonia in a concert replacing this month a number of works from the popular classical repertoire. Tonight's programme features Beethoven and Schumann.

**IN THE COMPANY OF MEN:** Edward Bond directs his own new play, with Karl Johnson and John Light playing a father and son pair of corporate raiders.

**PAUL BROWNE'S CENTRE:** EC2, 0171-438 8891. Preview runs from tonight, 7pm. Opens Oct 22, 7pm. Then in repertory

**MOJO:** Second chance to see the multi-award-winning Jez Butterworth's hair-raising play, set in Soho gangland, at the Royal Court Theatre, Drury Lane (Duke of York's), St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-765 5000). Opens tonight, 7pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm. Mat. Sat, 2pm. Until November 15.

**NEVER THE SINNER:** John Logan's play based on the Leopold and Loeb murder case, performed by past and present pupils of King's College School, Wimbledon, and one member of staff. Highly popular in Edinburgh and a rare case of a school production

10pm. Oct 18-20, 7pm.

**EDWARD BOND:** After touring successfully in Canada, the Royal Court's Edward Bond Programme continues with the Birmingham Dance Company's *Heathcliff*. The show, with the Birmingham Royal Ballet, runs from Oct 22 to Nov 15. Tickets £10-£25. The Barbican Centre, EC2, 0171-438 8891. Preview runs from tonight, 7pm. Opens Oct 22, 7pm. Then in repertory

**ELSEWHERE:** Sir Cliff Richard follows in the footsteps of Oliver, Iain Cuthbertson and Helen Mirren in *Cathy*. A musical version by Tim Rice, music by John Farnham, directed by Frank Dunlop. Birmingham Royal Concert Hall, Birmingham Road (0121-780 4120). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Mon-Sat, 7pm. Oct 26-Nov 15.

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10pm. Oct 18-20, 7pm.

**BY JEEVES:** Delightful musical creation by Alan Ayckbourn and Andrew Lippa. Set in the Edwardian era of the Workhouse humor.

**LYRIC:** Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Wed, Sat, Sun, 8pm.

**CASH ON DELIVERY:** Watch in his first leading West End role as a small-time hoodlum in a bank raid, written by Michael Cooney.

**WHITEHORN:** Whitechapel, SW1 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Mat. Wed, Sat, Sun, 8pm.

**POOL FOR LOVE:** Ian Brown directs Barry Llynn and Lorraine Ashbourne in Sam Shepard's classic drama of love on the edge of the Mojave desert.

**DOMINAR WAREHOUSE:** Earls Court Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thurs, Sat, Sun, 8pm. Until Nov 30.

**HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD:** M. Mouse, D. Duck, Cinderella, the Fantasia bucket and broom, plus many other Disney creatures, cavort on the ice in a

10am-12.30pm mat. Sat, Sun.

**NEW RELEASES:** Rosanne O'Hara's *Brothers in Trouble* (15) follows a group of illegal immigrants in Soho, Britain, with Om Puri and Argentine Ball Director Udayan Prasad.

**ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD:** (0171-636 6148) Metro (0171-437 0757).

**JACK:** (PG) A joyous and pants of a child with a young son, played by Robin Williams, feel and mouthy comedy from director John Goodman. *Deliverance* (1985) (15) (0171-436 9020).

**LEICESTER SQUARE:** (01263 914686).

**SWISS COTTAGE:** (01263 914098) UCI Whitley's (01992 889930) Virgin Cinema (0171-522 5056).

**LONE STAR:** (15) John Sayles's absorbing and humane drama about immigrants from West China.

**CHARLES IN CHARGE:** (15) (0171-369 1722) Notting Hill (0171-727 6705) Reprise (0171-637 8402).

**RICHMOND:** (0181-332 2000) (0171-369 1721).

**SCARFACE:** (0171-437 5368) Virgin Chelsea (0171-522 5056).

**CURRENT:** (0171-369 1722).

**COURAGE UNDER FIRE:** (15) Denzel Washington searches for truth in this War Hall-of-Fame intelligent drama, with Meg Ryan, Director, Edward Zwick.

**MGM BAKER STREET:** (0171-9772).

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**JACK:** (PG) A joyous



## ■ FILM

Tough and ready: actor Ian Hart has risen fast by playing a succession of memorable cameos



## ■ THEATRE 1

David Mamet's early play, *The Woods*, receives its belated first British staging



## ■ THEATRE 2

Less lust, more laughs: George Cole leads a politically correct revival of *Lock Up Your Daughters*



## ■ TOMORROW

Kevin Costner in *Tin Cup* and all the other new movies: read Geoff Brown's review

# Life's a screen for action man

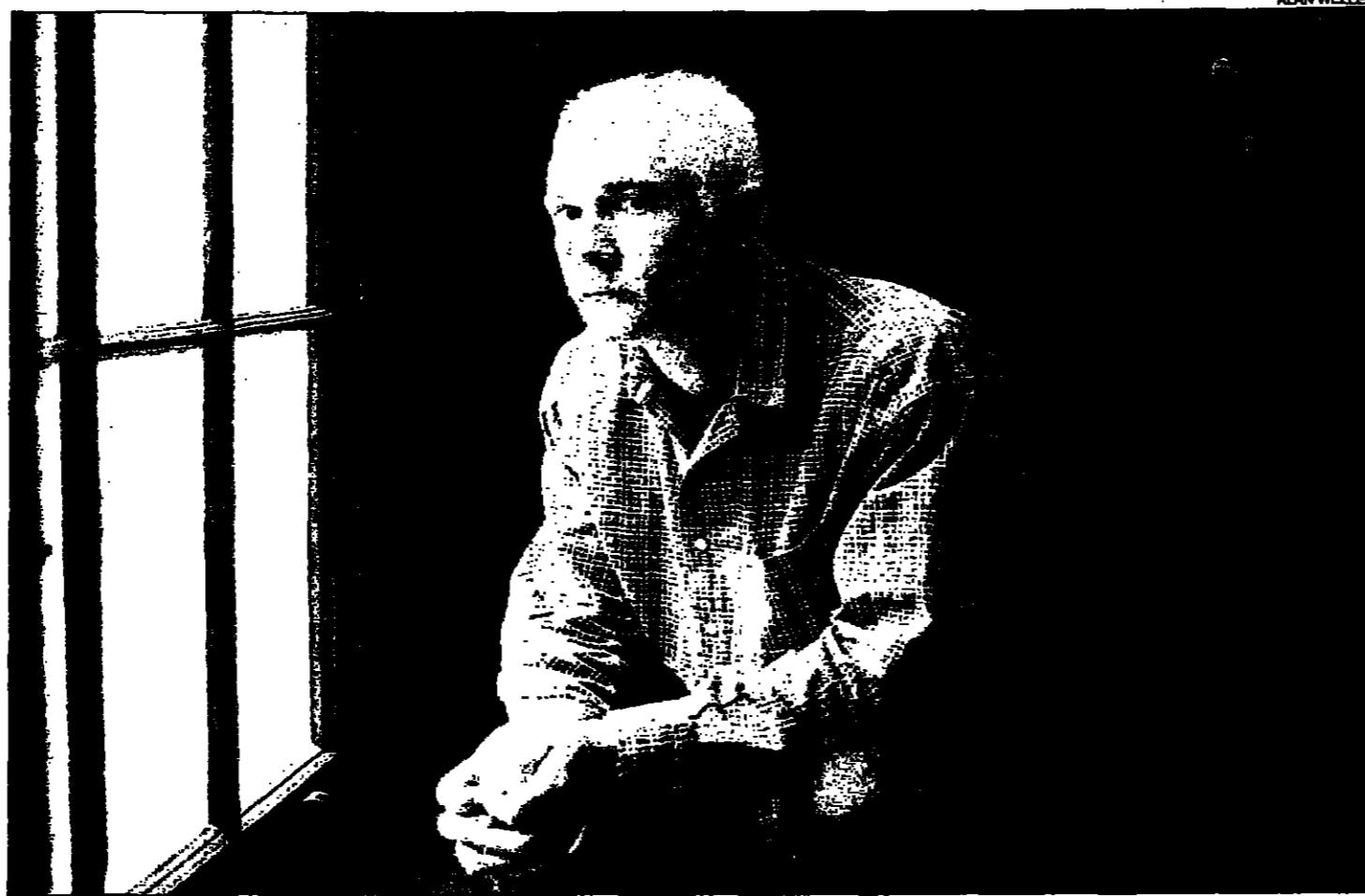
CINEMA: Britain's busiest young actor finds time to talk to Carol Allen

For an actor in a country where comparatively few films are made, Ian Hart seems to be in a remarkable number of them. Last year we saw him as the young schoolteacher in *Clockwork Mice*; as a shell-shocked First World War survivor in *The Englishman who went up a hill but came down a mountain*; and playing the hero of Ken Loach's Spanish Civil War drama, *Land and Freedom*. A few weeks ago he was seen in *The Hollow Reed*; this week he opens in Thaddeus O'Sullivan's Northern Ireland drama *Nothing Personal*; and next month he pops up in another Irish subject, Neil Jordan's *Michael Collins*, in which Hart plays Collins' loyal aide Joe O'Reilly. Since work on the latter ended, the actor has completed roles in five other films and starts work on another later this month.

Not all those roles, though, Hart is quick to point out, are leads. His normally brown hair, currently closely cropped and dyed blonde, is the result of a three-day stint he has just done in Cumbria on Michael Radford's film *B Monkey*. "I've only got two scenes, playing a villain who gets shot in the leg and then the head," Hart explains. "But there's something different about him, so it's enjoyable to do."

*Nothing Personal* finished filming early last year. Later, at the Venice Film Festival, Hart was named Best Supporting Actor for his role as the psychopathic Ginger, one of a gang of three loyalist thugs whose murderous fortunes are followed through a Belfast day and a night in 1975. The film was shot in Dublin, but Hart and the other actors researched their roles in the pubs and clubs of Belfast. What particularly struck Hart was the sheer ordinariness of the real-life counterparts to his character.

"You see these people dotted around the pub, looking no different



No rest for the wicked: Ian Hart has dyed his hair blonde to play another villain in Michael Radford's *B Monkey* — "it's enjoyable to do"

from anybody else and they're four-time murderers who've just done 15 years. People like Ginger don't live in derelict houses wearing ski masks all day long. They go to the pub, they have families, they go home to tea with the bullies I knew at school."

Hart was born 32 years ago in Liverpool and brought up on a very early council estate in the middle of nowhere. My Dad worked in Ford's car factory in Halewood, and my mum worked in the kitchens at a school run by the nuns. Everything was run by nuns where we lived.

"I was a super Catholic in those days. I was an altar boy, I went to Rome, to Lourdes twice, was always

in the Legion of Mary, but by the time I got to about 12 I was beginning to rebel, because you couldn't debate something with a nun or a priest. I couldn't wait to get out of it, it was very repressive."

Hart discovered his liking for theatre through a youth drama group at the age of 15. That led to a part in a television series and eventually, after much banging on the door, work at the Liverpool Playhouse. Although he still retains his Liverpool accent, he now lives in Crouch End in north London with his girlfriend, and although he is still going on about how they and John once did so and so together, and I was thinking, 'When I was eight years old, you were saying

which is maybe why he is willing to accept cameo roles as well as leads.

Hart was a small boy in Liverpool in the 1960s, when the Beatles were in their heyday, and although he bears little resemblance to John Lennon, he has played him twice on film: in Chris Munch's *The Hours and the Times*, which dealt with the relationship between Lennon and Brian Epstein, and in *Backbeat*, which was the film that got Hart noticed. But it was no big deal to play the Liverpool hero.

"When I was a teenager, DJs were still going on about how they and John once did so and so together, and I was thinking, 'When I was

eight years old, you were saying that. I'm 15 now, and you're still saying it. Will you stop it, please? Like all young people, we wanted to find something that was ours."

Hart is now about to start work in London on *Mojo*, the film of Jez Butterworth's funny and brash tale of rival gangs in 1980s Soho. It is based on Butterworth's hit play, which is being revived this week at the Duke of York's Theatre, the Royal Court's new West End base.

"Jez has written the screenplay and is directing it. I play Mickey. I wanted to do something substantial and this was the best thing I'd read for ages."

■ *Nothing Personal* opens in Britain on Friday

## THEATRE: Two London openings

### Stormy thicket

**The Woods**  
Finborough Arms,  
SW10

WHEN applied to a playwright's work, the innocent adjective "early" is often code for not nearly as good as the famous stuff. Written in 1977, *The Woods* is relatively "early" David Mamet. For the first 20 minutes of Robert Shaw's production, the play's first British outing, you would be hard pressed to imagine anything else.

The action takes place on the wooden patio of a cabin in North American woodland, and in the first section it consists mostly of Nick caressing the legs of Ruth, the young woman he has invited to stay. You might be familiar with the Mamet of *Glen Ross* or *House of Cards*: those sharp studies of urban America. But where in this more basic environment is the sardonic scribe who revels in the brutalities of everyday exchanges?

The middle section begins with Nick walking on to the patio saying "I washed up". At least that's what it sounded

ANDY LAVENDER

### Spa-ing partners

**What the Heart Feels**  
Orange Tree  
Richmond

AT LAST: Leamington Spa has what Iceland got centuries ago, a spa of its own. That is the pleasantly sedate town Stephen Bill apparently had in mind when he launched into a play that brings 18 performers on to the tiny Orange Tree stage and spans the years from 1982 to 1993. For those of us who had suspected that nothing much happened to anyone in Leamington during that time, this is an impressive achievement.

It is also a modestly enjoyable one. Bill himself claims that the play is "about a group of people who would love to move on but don't know where to go". Certainly several characters end up in less good nick than at the start. The friendliest of them turns to drink after his marriage breaks up. Another's business seems near collapse. Principles are abandoned, ideals get compromised, and the dream of arts centre looks likely to become, at best, a funhouse for tourists.

At first the themes are

change, decay, disillusion and the hypocrisies of the liberal well-to-do. But the second act

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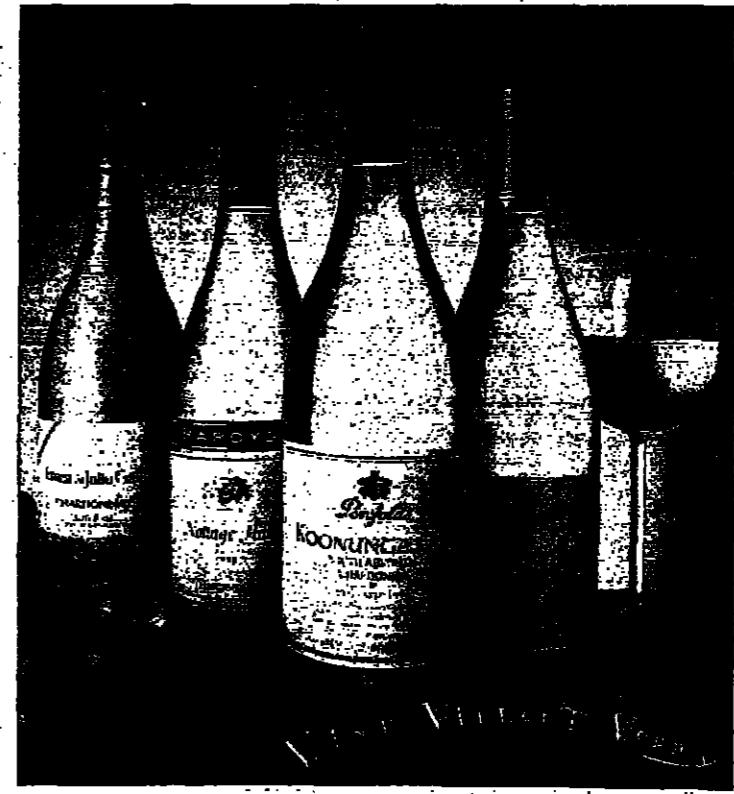
■ You will need seven differently numbered tokens, six from *The Times* and one from *The Sunday Times Style* section of October 20, 1996.

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**Lyric Theatre,**

**Hammermith**  
Oct 25-26, Nov 1-2  
• SAVE £2.50 on the top two ticket prices (normally £12.50 to £15) for Shaw's classic, *Mrs Warren's Profession*. Tel 0181-741 2311

**Glasgow**

**Cottage Theatre**  
Oct 28-29, Nov 4-5  
• TWO £7 tickets for the price of one to Robert Burns's *rum-bustious* *The Jolly Beggars*. Tel 0141-357 3868 (Tues to Sun; noon to 6pm)

**SCARBOROUGH**

**Stephen Joseph Theatre**  
Nov 4-22  
• TWO £10.50 tickets for the price of one to see Ben Brown's comedy of modern manners, *All Things Considered*. Tel 01223 370541

**BIRMINGHAM**

**Birmingham Rep Theatre**  
Oct 21-24, Oct 28-Nov 1  
• SAVE £2 on the top two prices (normally £12.50, £14.50) for Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. Tel 0121-236 4455

**SALISBURY**

**Playhouse**  
Oct 22-25  
• TICKETS £8 to £10 (normally £10.50 to £12) to see Shakespeare's comedy, *The Merchant of Venice*. Tel 01722 320333

**MANCHESTER**

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TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage.

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CHANGING TIMES

When experience triumphs over pessimism

## Speed may be cable's saviour

I went to a wedding on Saturday at which the clergyman went to great lengths to remind the radiant couple that marriage is the triumph of hope over experience. He ought to be invited to preach to the congregation of 6,000-plus now thronging the European Cable Convention at London's Olympia. A hall full of hope: investors, operators and programmers, wandering through a shimmering maze of high-tech goodies, exuding confidence that cable's hour has come round at last. As has been expected confidently since 1981.

A couple of months ago I wrote of cable television as a phenomenon whose heyday had passed without ever having arrived.

My blithe dismissal of the vast investment — much of it North American — made in cable Britain was based on certain observations:

- That cable is making more money from selling telephone services than from television.
- That rich and powerful BT can easily undercut the telephone rates of new competitors.
- That cable's television competitor, BSkyB (40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*), has cornered the multi-channel market.
- That the great majority of those who want extra television channels already own or rent satellite dishes and are therefore unlikely to switch to cable.
- That BT itself is gearing to sell television, particularly movies, down the telephone line.

So where does that leave cable's Unique Selling Point?

Cable's true believers have persuaded me to think again because of three words: "the return path". The cable that brings TV into the home works in two directions — the reason why it even now provides a telephone service. This link can be used for shopping and banking from home and all those other digital delights we read about.

Pure speed may prove to be cable's unmatchable attraction. In my pessimism, I had forgotten (so easy to do, isn't it?) the Internet. Most of us now use it on a tentative, clumsy and largely unsuccessful attempt to dip into the Net, an ordinary telephone line connected to a modem. You wait and wait for the clunked thing to deliver to the screen the information you seek.

BT, for a price, offers a much faster connection (called ISDN) to digital services than the standard telephone line. But cable's digital home line — also for an extra fee and the installation of the appropriate modem — can do the same in a flash.

To retrieve (I can't bring myself to say

"download") a complex picture from the Internet over a standard telephone line, I'm told, takes 18.5 minutes. An ISDN line takes 4.8 minutes, cable just four seconds. What this lightning delivery will mean for delivering files on demand, let alone data in large quantities, is obvious.

But will a fast track onto the Internet draw cable subscribers in the still-elusive multimillions? It seems more likely that for years to come the business user will remain the main customer for cable's interactive wares.

Cable as a form of television does have unique features of its own: cable-only channels unobtainable with a satellite dish. In my Videotone area, the 72 available channels include such cable-exclusive options as the Parliamentary Channel, Rai Uno, the Mirror Group's Live TV and Associated Newspapers' Channel One (which tomorrow launches its local television service for Liverpool).

Cable's capacity for virtually unlimited channel capacity will come into its own with the advent of digital television, which promises channels by the hundreds. Right now many cable systems are full to bursting with minimal appeal to draw in new subscribers.

Cable's optimism is based on more than soaring telephone income. In September Ofcom, the telecommunications watchdog, cracked down on BT in answer to complaints that some BT employees had been bad-mouthing cable's telephone service to potential customers.

In July, the Office of Fair Trading wrung a promise from BSkyB not to offer any more new channels to cable systems in the form called "bundling", the form in which BSkyB permits cable operators to offer the Disney Channel only to those willing to subscribe to two pay-TV movie channels as well. For its part, the Independent Television Commission is investigating whether even the Disney bundle will be allowed to remain intact.

One thing cable will never offer: the satellite porn, aka, "flood of foreign filth", that so troubles Virginia Bottomley and the *Daily Mail*. Satellites, with their moveable dishes and alterable decoder cards, will always be able to outwit Britain's censors. Not so cable. It is a local pipe, installed under licence. Nothing will be allowed in that the licensor does not like.

Cable may well pull up close to its rivals. But only if it enjoys continued regulatory vigilance. Such is the aversion these days to quasi-monopolies that, change of government or not, it will probably get it.

The advertising world is increasingly concerned over the distressing new



BRENDA MADDOX

## In one door and out the other

IF MARILYN Warnick ever decides to write a book about her life in newspapers, her recent stint on *The Daily Telegraph* will barely register a paragraph.

Staff at Canary Wharf are still trying to work out whether she has just completed one of the briefest periods of employment in *Telegraph* history.

Ms Warnick, a respected books editor, was thrilled when she was hired earlier this month to take charge of buying the serial rights to any suitable blockbuster the paper could snap up. On her first day she was dispatched to the Frankfurt Book Fair to scout about for new titles. She was mildly surprised to find Paul Woolfenden, the *Telegraph's* marketing guru, doing much the same.

Undaunted, Ms Warnick busily set about making con-



Martin Dunn, left, and Sir David English

tacts with publishers and agents, urging them to do business with *The Telegraph*. But her new job came to a shuddering halt when an embarrassed Sue Ryan, the news editor, phoned Germany to say: "Er, sorry, we can't hire you after all."

According to insiders, Ms Warnick's sacking was not personal and they suspect raging internal politics are to blame. "Marilyn was hired on Monday and fired on Thursday. It was like something out of a French farce," one said. "Even by *Telegraph* standards that has to be a record."

STAFF at Associated Newspapers have noticed a spooky thing about Martin Dunn, the new golden boy of Northcliffe House. They detect something familiar about the silvery hair, the bold spectacles, the pleasure rounded face...

Dunn, recently lured from his job as *Editor of the New York Daily News* to oversee Associated's new media and cable television operations, is staff say, starting to bear an uncanny resemblance to his close friend and mentor, Sir David English. It was apparently the prospect of

working with Sir David that convinced Dunn to make the move back to Britain. "Martin seems to be growing into a Sir David clone," a source said. "Are they by any chance related? I think we should be told."

### Chocoholics?

AS GRANADA prepares to launch four episodes a week of *Coronation Street* next month, the admen at Cadbury are making contingency plans. The company fears viewers may become bored by the animated chocolate *Coronation Street* figures that appear four times during each programme.

"When the Street goes four times a week that will be 16 times they see them," said an insider. "We are going to have to think up a new sequence."

### Royal mints

JUST when the Royal Family thought it had laid to rest the ghost of *Panorama*, another television documentary is threatening to send more skeletons hurtling out of the cupboard. This time the subject is more minor royals who allegedly capitalise on their status to make a living.

The documentary is being made for Carlton's *The Big*

Story by the independent company 2020 Television. "We are also looking at the children of the royals," said a source.

However, he denied a nasty rumour that the Duchess of York was not included because she would require a documentary all of her own.

**MOST** people who are trying to forge a career in television are grateful for any publicity. Not Sophie Anderson, the 19-year-old face of the *Gossard* underwear advert. She believes newspapers should have to pay for the privilege of promoting her new *Channel 4* show.

Ms Anderson, who appears half-naked in the *Gossard* posters beneath the headline "Who says a woman can't get pleasure out of something soft?", presents a fashion programme, *Desire*. Television publicists have been offering interviews and photo shoots to get the show in the news. But fashion editors have been astonished to receive follow-up calls from Ms Anderson's model agency Elite, demanding £2,000 plus 20 per cent commission for the honour.

"Sophie is a professional," said a snooty aide. "You must treat her as you would Claudia Schiffer."

## Wrangler tries for a better market fit

WRANGLER Jeans is taking drastic action to halt the indomitable march of its main rival, Levi's, in Britain. The company is on the brink of awarding its challenging pan-European advertising business to a UK agency.

The brief, say insiders, is not to do a Levi's with the Seventies brand. "Levi's do that too well, so there's no point trying to beat them," said an adman who has been shortlisted.

Levi's has a 15.5 per cent share of the UK jeans market compared with Wrangler's 6.5 per cent share. Parallels are being drawn with what was a similarly tough job for Adidas, another previously market-leading Seventies brand, in the face of increasing opposition from Nike.

Wrangler's advertising task will be tricky but it could be easier if they got the jeans right first. A better fit maybe?

### ADVERTISING

tendency among marketing directors to call pitches and then switch jobs halfway through, leaving agencies high and dry.

A review for BAA's advertising business has just been set back by the departure of Claire Hewitt, the BAA marketing director, who has left the shortlisted agencies wondering what happens next.

Agencies on the recent Mastercard pitchfests suffered the same fate when George Strachan, the marketing director, invited a handful to pitch for his account and then resigned. The incumbent agency was reappointed to the business as if the review had never been called.

Given that pitching for the average-sized £5 million account sets an agency back between £15,000 to £20,000 in third-party costs, plus as

much as another £20,000 in executive time, adfolk are understandably miffed at the trend.

WHILE agencies eagerly sign up famous faces for their television commercials, GGT Advertising has assembled an envably star-studded series of celebrities to do radio ads for *The Big Issue*, the weekly magazine sold by the homeless.

Nick Hancock, Jane Horrocks, Jack Dee, Paul Whitehouse, Eddie Izzard and Charlie Chuck have all offered their services free for a series of commercials to run on Virgin Radio from the end of the week.

The ads are the latest burst in a campaign that has already starred pop stars and personalities, from Adam Ant to Martin Clunes to Clive Anderson, Richard Branson and Mariella Frostrup.

BELINDA ARCHER



Jane Horrocks: free adverts

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You will probably have at least 3 years experience in the PC, WANS, LANS and communications market and have negotiated at Board level, have a solid track record in new business sales and an understanding of leasing would be advantageous.

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### So, Come On and Join Our Party...

Telephone Maria Adams (between 08.30am and 4.30pm) on 01483 718043 for an application form. Alternatively, write with full CV including details of your most recent/current job and a phone number.

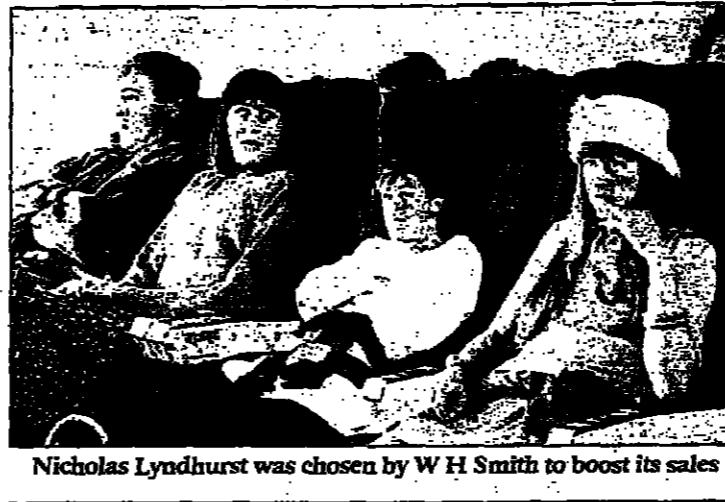
Applications to: David West, Human Resources Manager, Anglo House, Forsyth Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 5RU



Walkers Crisps hope that some of Gary Lineker's popularity will rub off on product sales, while Henry Kissinger brought gravitas and novelty to *The Economist*'s TV spot



Damon Hill's Pizza Hut advertisement is in line for an industry award



Nicholas Lyndhurst was chosen by W H Smith to boost its sales



John Major was chosen by W H Smith to boost its sales

There is an old saying in advertising circles that if you haven't got an idea, you get a star. If this is the case, ads must be devoid of any real creative thought at the moment, given the unprecedented glut of celebrities appearing on our television screens.

Half an hour's viewing of any commercial TV channel is likely to feature a galaxy of star-studded advertisements. If you don't catch Mel Smith fronting Delta's latest advertisements or Ruby Wax plugging the Vauxhall Corsa, you will probably see Nicholas Lyndhurst promoting W H Smith's family range of goods or Mrs Merton extolling the virtues of British Gas.

Then there is Kate Moss and John McCarthy, the former Beirut hostage, in the One 2 One mobile phone commercials, or Julie Walters spoofing celebrity TV chefs on behalf of Bisto granules. There is even Henry Kissinger, who has just been signed up to do a brief spot for *The Economist*, and that's not counting the host of celebrities busily working for BT alongside Bob Hoskins.

The advertising industry seems willing to sign up just about anybody famous, from household name actors to comedians, supermodels and sports stars who, in return for fat fees, sprinkle a little stardust on companies' otherwise possibly dreary "buy-me" messages.

But why? What is causing this explosion? Famous faces have always been used by advertising agencies but why are so many now spilling over from their programmes into commercial breaks?

Adam Crozier, the joint chief executive of Saatchi and Saatchi, the agency behind the current Delta Visa ads, believes the diminishing shelf life of company marketing directors is a primary factor.

"Current pressures on budgets mean that the average lifespan of a

## Stars take over the TV breaks

**Belinda Archer** reports on the growing employment of actors, sports personalities and even politicians by shrewd advertisers anxious to get their message across

Robert Saville, the joint creative director of CGT advertising, which has used a raft of stars from Jeff Goldblum to Paul Merton, Jack Dee and Denis Leary to front its ads, hints at another cause for the fashion.

Another reason, according to John Webster, who as executive creative director of BMP DDB has been involved in using Rowan Atkinson in the Barclaycard ads and Gary Lineker for Walkers Crisps, is the dramatic improvement in the standard of scripts.

In the past there have been a lot of ropey ads featuring celebrities wobbling coffee beans in their hands and saying things they wouldn't normally say. But the scripts are generally getting better — so much so that the stars are now thinking that doing an ad might actually help their careers rather than hinder them.

Indeed, some stars have declared that their advertising has brought them fame. Others are known to use their commercials on their show reels to secure new work, and it has now almost become a standard joke within celebrity circles to boast about lucrative advertising contracts.

Stars also have the necessary talent, says Sholto Douglas-Hamilton, head of advertising for the personal

communications division of BT, a committed celebrity advertising agency from Maureen Lipman to the ubiquitous Hoskins.

You often simply need someone who can act, who has conviction and credibility and who can get the message across. That can't be just anyone off the street," he says.

Advertisers, however, must be wary of hiring personality frontmen. The basic problem with stars is that, being stars, they often behave like operatic prima donnas and they do not come cheap.

A famous face can cost anything from £20,000 to several hundred thousands, depending on how much you want to use them and the extent and length of their involvement with the product.

Adland is also rife with cautionary tales such as the Michael Jackson and Pepsi debacle which clearly illustrated one fundamental problem — that if you use someone famous you are hostage to their fortunes. Pepsi was forced to pull out of its commercial association with Jackson when charges were brought against

him for alleged child abuse in November 1993.

A personality can also drown out the brand message and steal the limelight. A classic example of mismanaged celebrity use was the Joan Collins/Leonard Rossiter Cinzano commercial of the late Seventies. To this day, people remember the ad but have difficulty recalling whether it was Cinzano or a rival vermouth.

Andrew Robertson, managing director of Abbot Mead Vickers BBDO, the agency behind the Bob Hoskins BT commercials and recent Pizza Hut work, sums up the main disadvantage of using a personality. "The trap is that unless you think carefully about who you want to use, and how and why, you will get a lot of attention for your advertising but none for your brand or proposition."

As any commercial break suggests, however, the pitfalls of using stars are increasingly surrounded by agencies — particularly in the light of their success rates. Past recent winners of the prestigious Institute of Practitioners in Advertising effectiveness awards have included Jack Dee's ads for John Smith's bitter and Rowan Atkinson's for Barclaycard.

Meanwhile, as many as four of this year's shortlisted entries feature famous faces, including Damon Hill in a spot for Pizza Hut and Ryan Giggs in a Quorn burger commercial.

Observers say the more celebrities are used, the more they will be used in the future. "Once the authors of ads see something successful, they want to compete and because there have been several good, entertaining campaigns using celebrities recently, people want to climb on that bandwagon," Webster adds.

Before long, no doubt, something else will come along to dilute the admen. Until that time, however, the client company, the agency, the celebrity and, arguably, the viewer gain from the proliferation of talent in our commercial breaks.

## The courage to reach the top — and stay there



**PAPER ROUND**  
Brian MacArthur

Editors of national newspapers live as precariously as the managers of Premiership football clubs. If they fail to sell, they are dismissed, which has been the fate of eight Fleet Street editors in the past year. So, Richard Addis, editor of *The Express*, is the man that Fleet Street is watching closely this month.

After decades of decline and a string of editors, during which sales of the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express* have declined by almost three million, Addis has launched what may be the last attempt to save the two papers which, under the ownership of the legendary Lord Beaverbrook, dominated Fleet Street both before and after the Second World War.

After 96 years there is no longer a *Daily Express* nor, after 78 years, a *Sunday Express*. Since October 5, Addis has been editing a seven-day newspaper, *The Express*. The *Express on Saturday* and *The Express on Sunday*.

*The Express* has been elegantly redesigned — some critics say too elegantly for a tabloid — and a daily sport section introduced within a newspaper of at least 80 pages. On weekdays the tele-

means they think he has done a good job. It looks as if his chutzpah is being rewarded. Sales lifted by more than 100,000 for the first *Express on Saturday*.

Yet the sales figures for September show the magnitude of the task that Addis is now confronting. Five years ago, the *Daily Mail* sold about 140,000 more copies a day than the *Daily Express*. The *Mail's* lead last month had increased to almost 900,000, and its sales were up by 233,000 on September last year against a year-on-year fall of 67,000 for the *Express*.

The test for Addis is to close that gap. As English demonstrated in the years when he chased and overtook the *Daily Express*, it is a test that can be passed — but English and Rothermere are determined that he will fail.

Apart from *The Sun*, still selling more than four million a day, and the *Daily Mail*, it is

### AUTUMN SALES WAR

DAILY TITLES	Avg. Daily Sale (Sep 95)	Compared to Sep 95 +/-
THE SUN	4,041,259	-3898 -0.1%
D MIRROR	2,420,923	-128543 -5.0%
D EXPRESS	1,201,580	-69977 -5.2%
D MAIL	2,100,017	23320 12.5%
D STAR	882,849	-74231 -8.8%
D RECORD	722,214	-20753 -2.7%
<b>TOTAL POPULAR</b>	<b>11,178,912</b>	<b>-6004 -0.5%</b>
 SUNDAY TITLES		
THE TIMES	810,493	128951 18.9%
D TELEGRAPH	1,076,324	135222 1.2%
INDEPENDENT	401,093	174 0.4%
FIN. TIMES	204,425	38601 2.0%
<b>TOTAL QUALITY</b>	<b>2,653,248</b>	<b>-178520 -6.5%</b>
 GRAND TOTAL	<b>13,732,248</b>	<b>-338564 -1.7%</b>
 SUNDAY TITLES		
THE TIMES	4,560,575	209,828 +4.2%
THE PEOPLE	2,069,558	-31,020 -1.4%
S MIRROR	2,508,731	-57862 -3.2%
S EXPRESS	1,183,310	-220,851 -15.7%
MAIL ON SUNDAY	2,117,568	27,551 1.3%
<b>TOTAL POPULAR</b>	<b>12,723,176</b>	<b>-591,376 -4.1%</b>
 SUNDAY TITLES		
THE OBSERVER	1,324,689	-47,240 -3.7%
S TELEGRAPH	466,910	-9,729 -2.0%
INDEPENDENT	752,390	80,218 11.9%
<b>TOTAL QUALITY</b>	<b>2,543,980</b>	<b>-37,221 -1.4%</b>
 GRAND TOTAL	<b>16,236,794</b>	<b>-80,508 -0.5%</b>
		Source: ABC

the broadsheets which are having the best of the autumn. Selling at 10p on Mondays, *The Times* again hit a new record sale of 810,000 and narrowed the lead of *The Daily Telegraph* to 265,000.

At weekends, *The Sunday*

*Telegraph* was up by 80,000 on a year ago. Under Editors Charles Moore and Dominic Lawson it has increased its sale over the past five years by 192,000 — but it is the mammoth *Sunday Times* which still cruises effortlessly ahead as market leader, almost out-selling all three of its Sunday rivals.

*The Guardian* remains well ahead of *The Independent*, which celebrated its tenth anniversary last week but which is still struggling to get off under its new editor Andrew Marr. It was the only broadsheet whose sales fell last month and *The Guardian* has increased circulation in the past year as *The Independent* has lost 27,000. For *The Observer* it was *The Sunday Times* that was once its main rival. It is now content with third place but the revamped paper is beginning to win back readers while year-on-year sales of *The Independent on Sunday* were down by 37,000. Its Editor, Peter Wilby paid the price for declining sales last week and was replaced by Rosie Boycott, the Editor of *Esquire* magazine, who is now the first woman editor of a British broadsheet.

At weekends, *The Sunday*

## MEDIA AND MARKETING 43

### Could The Sun win it for Blair?

Labour has been wooing the tabloid Tory press since the last election. Maggie Brown reports

THE notion that newspapers, especially the largest-selling tabloids, influence voters and help to decide general elections was given a fresh airing this week when Peter Mandelson, Tony Blair's right-hand man told Sir David Frost that he hoped *The Sun* would support Labour this time. "If *The Sun* chooses to pitch against us like the last election we will find it difficult to win but not impossible," he said.

He was referring to the now infamous campaign of ridicule that Britain's largest selling daily, in the final fling of Kelvin MacKenzie's editorship, heaped upon Neil Kinnock in the 1992 election, which John Major won against the odds.

*The Sun's* coverage culminated in the triumphant headline "It's The Sun won't won it", which created a small industry of research into the links between newspapers and voting patterns but "no one

has been referring to the take-over by the Labour peer Lord Hollick, the papers have edged noticeably towards the centre, shifting their political position as part of a rebranding to salvage their fortunes. In a seminal editorial in *The Express* of October 6 the paper served notice that its allegiance could change.

AT THE very least Mr Blair can expect a relatively clean election campaign from this quarter, free from the personality attacks that the Conservatives, from the "mon eye" poster onwards, are unleashing. As *The Times* editorial noted last Saturday, "Politics seems set to become more personal in the months ahead. It will be hard for Tory spin-doctors to plant the seeds in this newly sterilised Express ground. Lord Hollick has insisted that its political reporting is factual.

But this is not the whole story. Tory-supporting newspapers are fickle, fair-weather friends. *The Daily Mail* devoted a page to why women find Mr Blair "smarmy". They instinctively thrill to signs of hope of a Tory revival and can absent-mindedly banish the reality of sleaze and European schisms — for a period. But the dominant impression remains: Mr Blair can expect reasonable treatment with some punches pulled.

### THE TIMES CROSSWORDS FOR CHRISTMAS

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Rachel Kelly looks at how aristocrats are preserving family history by letting, rather than selling, ancestral homes

# The Queen sparks rush to live like a king



A hundred years ago, the first issue of *Country Life* advertised the letting of Stowe House, Buckinghamshire, the stately ancestral home of the Dukes of Buckingham and Chandos, "in consequence of the death of the late tenant HRH, the Comte de Paris".

Then such letting was commonplace. Indeed Michael Sayer, author and expert on the disintegration of Britain's historic heritage, estimates that as many as 50 per cent of the 3,000-odd important country houses were routinely let before the war. In Norfolk alone, Melton Constable, Raynham and Haydon Hall were all let. They were let as entities, including furniture and chattels, usually for short periods of up to five years.

"Typically owners had a couple of seats," says Richard Wilkins, director of the Historic Houses Association. Fellow aristocrats would enjoy playing musical houses, swapping their seats as whim and fancy dictated.

"It was quite simply the style of the times," Mr Wilkins says. But for the past couple of decades, there has been a dearth of such property to rent.

Owners were frightened that tenants would become all too permanent because of legislation unsympathetic to landlords, while would-be renters preferred to buy with seemingly ever-rising property prices. Instead, a swath of historic houses became pre-schools, hotels and even conference centres.

Now a crop of important stately homes and country houses have come up for rent. Last month the

Queen advertised in *Country Life* the lease of Ling House, a farmhouse on her Sandringham estate in Norfolk. She is only the latest in a line of estate owners to let their property.

Earlier this year the 9th Duke of Somerset, John Michael Edward Seymour, his wife Judith Rose and their four children, put Bradley House, near Warminster, set in 15 acres of Wiltshire, up for rent for £50,000 a year. Meanwhile, they have moved to more modest quarters in Devon.

Henry VIII was reputedly once a guest in the Grade II listed, five-reception, seven-bedroom and five-bathroom house. The first Duke of Somerset, Edward Seymour, was the brother of Jane, third wife of Henry VIII, and in one of the bedrooms is the four-poster inlaid oak bed with a wooden canopy where their son Edward VI is said to have been conceived.

The rest of the furnishings are included in the rent, as well as the stables and gardens. The house was built in 1700 and is the remaining wing of something far grander. The three-storey, ivy-covered building is perfectly symmetrical with a central arched doorway and a coat of arms flag flying on the roof. It is built of rendered Bath stone with some finely carved stone figures set into the wall.

The Duke, 43, owns about 3,000 acres around Maudlin Bradley, and plans that his eldest son will move back in after five years. The family has moved to a five-bedroom 18th-century farmhouse on their other estate at Berry Pomeroy. The Duke said at the time: "One has to make assets work. We cannot leave the

house empty and I think we would have moved anyway."

In July the Duke of Norfolk put Park House in West Sussex up for rent. The house is flanked by two wings, one originally for the late Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk's daughters, the other for her staff. Inside there is an air of grandeur created by the plaster vaults and recessed arches. The six-bedroom house, ten miles from Chichester, has been let for up to 15 years for £40,000 a year.

It was built between 1558 and 1626 by Claude Philimore as a dower house for the duchess who died in December 1995. It is being let until it is required for family use.

Chatton Park in Northumberland is another case. It was previously the home of the Duke of



Northumberland, who decided to let the property when he inherited Alnwick Castle in Northumberland.

The motivation of owners is clear, says Andrew Jones, from Clegg Kennedy Drew, which has become expert in cornering the market for letting these kinds of houses.

"These are large estates with sometimes several properties which have become surplus to requirements. They are often close to the main house: Park House, for example, is within a third of a mile of Arundel Castle. So often there is no question of selling them. But letting them means that there is an extra source of income for the landlord and an asset is being used."

The introduction of assured shorthold tenancies, which guarantee that the owner can reclaim his property so long as the lease is not for longer than 21 years, has reassured owners, who can thus keep a firm grip on their homes. The leases stipulate the right to view the property at any time. Some state that the grounds and sometimes even parts of the home remain open to the public.

Moreover, letting the property with staff intact means that gardeners and housekeepers can be kept in work.

Clearly these are historic properties, often with interiors to match. Agents recommend that prospective tenants should be thoroughly vetted. In reality, friends of friends provide the kind of reassurance

that no bank reference or lawyer's promise could provide. As Mr Jones says: "Without sounding terribly snobbish, these are PLUs [People Like Us, in Sloane-speak]."

In the Duke of Somerset's case, he personally met the new tenants of Marden Bradley.

"One good tip is to meet would-be tenants in their existing property to see how they maintain it," says Mr Jones.

Barbara Blanchard, from John D. Wood's Hampshire office, recommends that such houses should not be let for more than a year at a time, with the option to renew on both sides.

"And I believe it better not to issue the tenant with a full repairing lease," Ms. Blanchard says. "Inappropriate redecoration and

improvements can permanently destroy many of the features of these historic houses." She also recommends a thorough inventory and a deposit of between six weeks and two months' rental.

Mr Wilkins adds that if the owner remains responsible for repairs himself, he can keep an eye on the property and charge a higher rent.

All of the historic houses put on to the rental market have been let within weeks, with Ling House expected to be snapped up shortly.

As Rupert Bradstock, from the property buying agents Property Vision, says: "These grand houses are rarely the jewel in the landlord's crown, but even their second string is often of stately proportions. These are houses that money can't buy."

## Law Report October 16 1996 Court of Appeal

### Sick pay for part-time employee

#### Brown v Chief Adjudication Officer

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Patrick Russell [Wednesday October 16]

An employer was liable for statutory sick pay in respect of a part-time employee who had been continuously employed for more than three months under a series of daily contracts and who had worked in excess of 16 hours each week.

The defining provisions of section 49(4) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 applied so as to convert the daily contracts into a contract for an indefinite period so that the employee could establish a period of entitlement under section 153(2) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an unopposed appeal by the claimant, Sally Brown, from the decision on January 12, 1995, of a social security commissioner, Mr D. G. Rice, who had upheld the social security appeal tribunal's decision refusing her claim to statutory sick pay for the period from June 21, 1992, to December 9, 1992.

The claimant was employed on a day-to-day basis for a continuous period from September 1991 to July 1992, working not less than 24 hours each week during that period. On June 21, 1992, she injured her neck at work as a result of which she was incapable of working until December 1992.

Section 153(1) laid down the condition that the day of incapacity in question fell within "a period of continuous employment".

Section 153(2) defined "a period of continuous employment" as, inter alia, "a period beginning with the commencement of a period of incapacity for work and ending with... (c) the day on which the employee's contract of service with the employer concerned expires or is brought to an end."

Schedule II to the 1992 Act provides: "(1) A period of entitlement does not arise in relation to a particular period of incapacity for work in any of the following circumstances...

"(2)... (b) the employee's contract of service was entered into for a specified period of not more than three months."

However, section 49(4) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 now section 16 of the Employment Rights Act 1996 provides "[a]ny contract of employment of a person who has been continuously employed for three months or more which is a contract for a term certain of one month or less shall have effect as if it were for an indefinite period

and, accordingly subsections (1) and (2) [which set out minimum notice periods] shall apply to the contract."

Miss Cherie Booth, QC and Miss Helen Mountfield for the employee; Mr Michael Kent, QC, for the chief adjudication officer.

Lord Justice Nourse said that the provisions relating to statutory sick pay were contained in Part XI of the 1992 Act. By section 151 where an employee had a day of incapacity for work the employer was to pay him sick pay in respect of that day, provided that three qualifying conditions were satisfied.

It was agreed that the first and third conditions were satisfied here. The second was that the day of incapacity should fall within "a period of entitlement" as defined in section 153(2).

It was now clear that it was on the effect of section 49(4) of the 1978 Act that the outcome of the appeal depended. On the face of it that subsection applied to the claimant.

No difficulty arose in relation to the definition of continuous employment: she was continuously employed for rather more than nine months and her contract had effect as if it were for an indefinite period.

Lord Justice Auld and Sir Patrick Russell agreed.

Solicitors: Mr David Thomas, Solicitor, Department of Social Security.

### Procedure for hearings before judge in chambers amended

#### Practice Direction: Judge in Chambers: Amended

The hearing of summonses and appeals by the Queen's Bench judge in chambers is reorganised and expedited with immediate effect, according to a practice direction delivered by Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division on October 15.

The Lord Chief Justice said the existing Practice Direction: "Judge in Chambers: Amended Procedure (1995) I (1995) was to be replaced by the following:

All inter partes applications and appeals to the Queen's Bench judge in chambers would initially be entered in a general list. They would be listed for hearing in Room E101 or some other room at the Royal Courts of Justice on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Whenever it appeared or was agreed that any application or appeal was likely to last more than 30 minutes, it would be transferred to the chambers warned list. If the parties agreed that it was likely to

ingly there could be no period of entitlement, as the contract had already ended, "the commissioner thus concluded that the second qualifying condition had not been satisfied so that she was not entitled to sick pay.

However, for completeness, the commissioner mentioned and rejected the claimant's argument relating on section 49(4) of, and paragraph 3 of Schedule 13 to Employment Protection Consolidation Act 1978 that she was entitled on the facts of the case to one week's notice of termination of her employment and accordingly her employment did not terminate on the day she contracted her incapacity. The commissioner said that he did not see why the 1978 Act could affect the wording of section 153(2) of the 1992 Act.

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Solicitors: Mr David Thomas, Solicitor, Department of Social Security.

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BELGRAVE SW1 5 bed 2 bath, £1,200 per week. Tel: 0171 271 2216	MARYLEBONE, W1. A large, three bed, two bath, £1,200 per week. Tel: 0171 271 2226	SW8A Bright, one bed, £600 per week. Tel: 0171 922 0253
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## FOOTBALL

# Sunderland defiant in face of red cards

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

KEVIN BALL, the Sunderland midfield player, has insisted that his team is not worried about its disciplinary record in the FA Carling Premiership, despite receiving four red cards in the first two months of the season.

Richard Ord became the fourth player to be sent off when he stamped on Nick Barmby, the England striker, during the 2-2 draw against Middlesbrough at Roker Park on Monday night. Ord, who was also dismissed at Derby County last month, is now in trouble with both the Football Association and Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, with a three-match ban for violent conduct and a hefty club fine the likely outcome.

Ball made no apology for the commitment that he believes is Sunderland's greatest strength. "This side has got a tremendous will to win and we're going to go out and battle away in every game," he said. "If that means you're walking a bit of a tightrope with certain referees, so be it. Last year, we were a committed side. That's what won us the first division championship."

Ord's dismissal was Sunderland's third in two games. Martin Scott and Paul Stewart were sent off during the 2-0 defeat at Arsenal, although Stewart's red card for a handball offence has since been quashed as Paul Danson, the referee, has admitted making a mistake.

Reid has hinted that heavy punishment now awaits Ord, who missed the match at Highbury because he was serving a suspension after his dismissal at Derby.

The final Wear-Tees derby before Sunderland move to a new stadium at Wearmouth provided an entertaining match and an answer to the critics who had accused Reid's team of being unduly negative. "We're not too fussed

about whether people think we're entertaining or not," Ball said.

A former senior referee yesterday claimed that Premiership officials "do as they're told" for fear of losing their positions this season. John Lloyd, of Wrexham, referred in the Premiership and Football League, and was also a Fifa official, before retiring at the end of last season.

"It is not always the best referees who are in the Premier League, but more often the ones who do as they're told, and have contacts in football who can help them," Lloyd said.

Lloyd also criticised Football League assessors. "Assessors are often people with no experience of refereeing at the highest level," he said. "I refereed Chelsea and Tottenham in the 1993-94 season and was assessed by a 76-year-old, who had been a linesman for two seasons 30 years ago."

Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, is facing another potentially explosive situation — this time with Leeds United supporters — at Villa Park on Saturday.

Bosnich already has an FA disrepute charge hanging over him after his Nazi-style salute to Tottenham Hotspur fans at White Hart Lane on Saturday. He faces another tough afternoon from Leeds fans, who will recall the Australian being sent off in the closing stages of a Premiership match at Elland Road 18 months ago.

Villa insist that they will continue to pick Bosnich, who will then have to return to Elland Road next Wednesday for a Coca-Cola Cup third round tie. However, Allan Evans, the Villa assistant manager, said: "He's had problems with the Leeds crowd in the past. He was sent off there for wasting time and winding people up. He's been in the wrong a few times and he must start to grow up."

Nick Szczepanik visits the stadium where almost every possibility is seemingly covered

Performing regularly at Ibrox, one of Britain's finest football grounds, the players of Rangers know all about big stadia: but, when they run out to face Ajax at the £80 million, 51,200-seat Amsterdam Arena tonight, they will be looking at the first of a new generation of sports stadiums. Depending on the weather, Rangers may even find themselves playing indoors, thanks to the Arena's sliding roof, the only one of its kind in Europe, which can be opened or shut in 15 minutes.

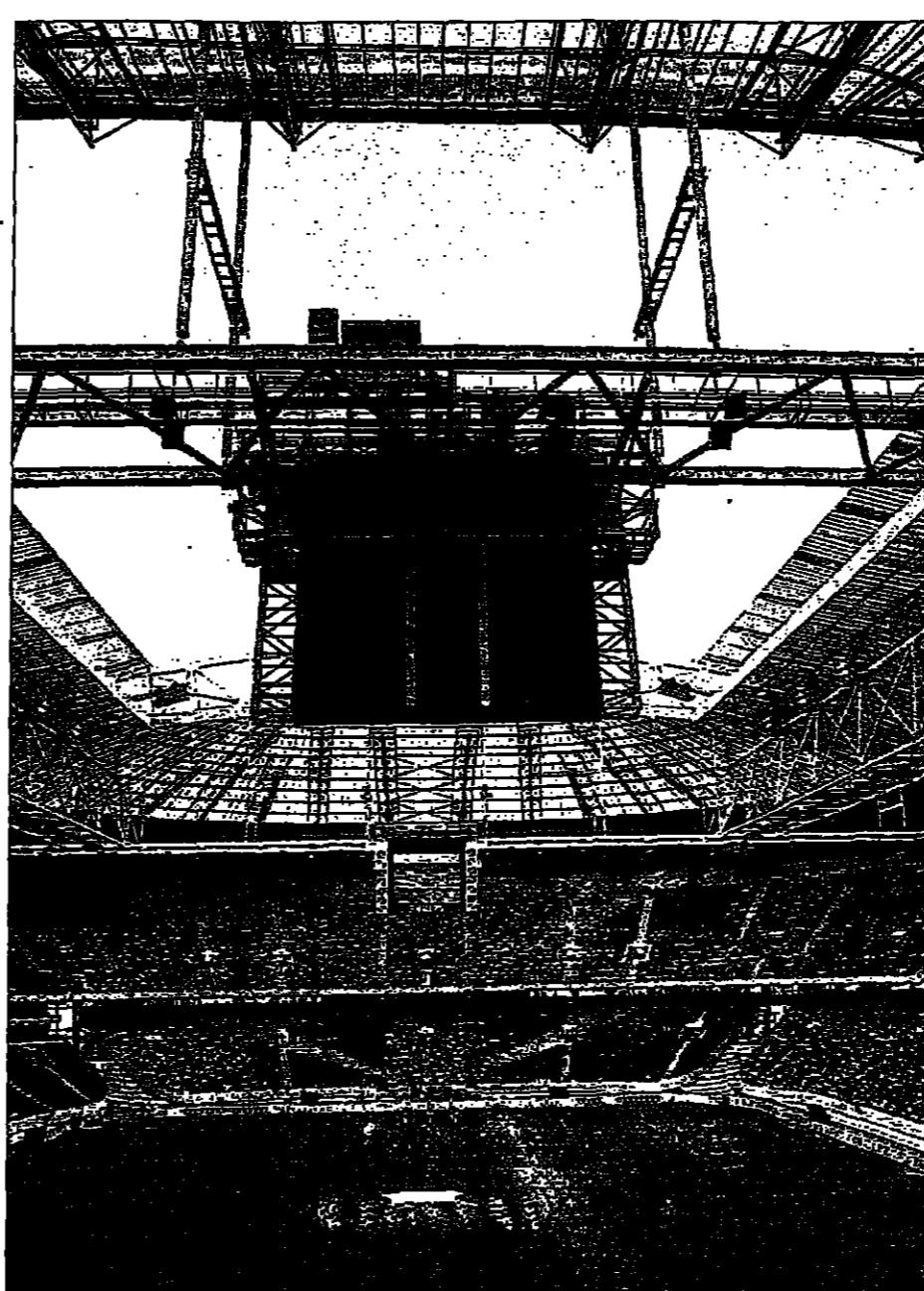
Privately owned — Ajax will rent it for home games at a cost of £2.8 million per season — and built by Ballast Nedam, an Anglo-Dutch company also involved with Sunderland's Wearmouth Stadium, the Arena is "an event hall where you can play football", according to Peter Jourstra, one of the men behind it.

A Uefa consultant who wrote the European governing body's manual of technical requirements for new stadiums and collaborated on the Taylor Report, Jourstra is one of Europe's most respected experts on safety standards. He is convinced that hooliganism, even in Holland, will not be a problem.

"There has been a change of mind," Jourstra said. "The Ajax stadium is a totally new way of thinking. We don't even consider hooliganism any more." One of his preventive measures is to ensure high standards of spectator comfort and convenience (750 of those); although total evacuation time in the event of emergency, even from the 350 wheelchair spaces, is only six minutes, Jourstra does not want his "clients", as he calls them, to leave in a hurry.

In fact, he would like them there all day. "We have a cinema, crèches, 25 restaurants from Chinese to McDonald's, a concert hall and a snooker hall. After the game, you don't go straight home, you stay, watch a concert and have a drink or a meal."

The Ajax players have not felt as much at home. The move to the Arena has coincided with a run of injuries, disputes and poor home form, including defeat in their previous



The state-of-the-art Amsterdam Arena, in which Rangers will play Ajax tonight

outright Champions' League game against Grasshoppers.

The natural grass pitch has been causing problems. In choosing a fixed playing surface rather than the moveable sections of turf seen at Detroit's Pontiac Silverdome during USA 94, Ajax were gambling on an untried technological solution to a new situation — even with the roof open, some of the surface rarely sees sunlight — and, despite computer-controlled watering, drainage and temperature, it has already been back to the drawing board.

"We've had to return three large sections, which did not 'take' as we would have liked,"

Ronald van der Aart, of the Arena, said. "Winter is coming, and the problems may not be completely solved until it gets warm again in summer, but we're on the way to having them under control. We feel very confident that we will have a good pitch."

Other aspects of the move have been better. While Ajax used to attract average gates of only 18,000 and had to sell their best players to make ends meet, the new stadium, with two adjacent railway stations and a through-road giving access to underpitch parking, has generated such a surge of

interest that matches are sold out for the next two seasons.

The first executive box to be sold on netted a 60 per cent profit on the cost of £100,000.

Stadium tours attracted 2,500 a day, 7,000 on one Saturday, while the Arena was still a hard-hat area. There has even been a wedding there.

As England contemplates a new national stadium, the Amsterdam Arena, ideal for a cold northern European setting — if they can get the grass right — points one way forward. The technology is not limited to 50,000-seat size.

While England procrastinates the first true 21st century stadium is already here.

## QPR players threaten TV boycott

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

QUEENS Park Rangers players yesterday indicated that they will boycott their Sky TV match against Crystal Palace on November 10, should a strike be called this week. The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) is in dispute with the Football League, claiming that it is entitled to ten per cent of television revenue.

Players have until today to return their ballot forms and an announcement will be made on Saturday as to whether they have voted for strike action.

Simon Barker, the Queens Park Rangers captain, believes that PFA members

should stand firm. "We've negotiated until we are blue in the face and we've got nowhere," he said. "What can you say to an organisation that says 'go out there and entertain but, by the way, we are keeping your money'?

If the players vote for a strike, it will come into force on November 1. The first game to be affected would be the Nationwide League first division match between Grimsby Town and Sheffield United on November 3.

John Dennis, the chairman of Barnsley, is still hoping that common sense will prevail. "We have discussed the situation with the management and the players," Dennis said.

### TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL	
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated	
European Cup	
Champions League Group A	
Ajax v Borussia Dortmund	
Autzen v FC Zürich	
Group B	
Atletico Madrid v Borussia Dortmund	
Steaua Bucharest v Widzew Lodz	
Group C	
Fenerbahce v Manchester United	
Real Madrid v Juventus	
Group D	
IFK Göteborg v AC Milan	
Rosenborg v FC Porto	
FA CUP: Third qualifying round replay	
St. Leonards v Stamford Bridge (7.45)	
ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division Harrow Borough v Aylesbury	
Nationwide League	
First division	
Salford v Oldham (7.45)	
Port Vale v Crystal Palace (7.45)	
Queens Park Rangers v Bradford (7.45)	
Southend v Peterborough (7.45)	
West Bromwich v Stoke (7.45)	
Second division	
Mitwalli v Bury (7.45)	
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: League Cup. Swans v Bristol City (7.45)	
Leeds v Wimborne (7.45)	
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division, Derby v Sheffield Wednesday (7.45)	
1st Division: Coventry v Blackpool (7.45)	
Middlesbrough v Sheffield Wednesday (7.45)	
Second division: Hull v Stockport (7.45)	
Shrewsbury v York (7.45)	
SCREWFAST DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division, Bradford v Mansfield (7.45)	
LEAGUE PREMIER: Oldham v Coventry (7.45)	
LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Epsom & Ewell (7.45)	
SYCFC: Merton v Sutton United (7.45)	
NERVIA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: O'Brien Butchers Premier division: Bracknell (7.45)	
European Conference	
JEWSOON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Bury St Edmunds v Sudbury (7.45)	
Leeds v Wimborne (7.45)	
LEAGUE OF UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division, Stamford (7.45)	
Stamford v Kettering (7.45)	
NORTHUMBERLAND LEAGUE: Newcastle v North Shields (7.45)	
Northumbrian v Alnwick (7.45)	
Northumbrian v Hexham (7.45)	
Northumbrian v Morpeth (7.45)	
Northumbrian v Northallerton (7.45)	
Northumbrian v Whitley Bay (7.45)	
POOL B	
Bridgwater v Bristol (7.45)	
Cleethorpes & Grimsby v Doncaster (7.45)	
Leeds v Walsall (7.45)	
Leeds v Wigan (7.45)	
Leeds v Wimborne (7.45)	
Leeds v Wimborne (7.45)	
POOL C	
Neath v Caledonian (7.30)	
Ulster v Harlequins (at Ravenhill)	
POOL D	
Cardiff v Munster (7.15)	
Man & Toulose (7.30)	
European Conference	
POOL E	
Avon & Mendip v Bristol (6.30)	
Glastonbury v Sale (5.30)	
POOL F	
Dorset v Connacht (7.15)	
Northampton v Orrell (7.30)	
Toulon v Padova (6.0)	
POOL G	
Ebbw Vale v Swansea (7.15)	
Bedford & Biggleswade (7.30)	
London Irish v Bourgoin (7.30)	
POOL H	
TOUR MATCH: Lancashire v Australian Aborigines (ie. Leigh) (7.30)	
OTHER SPORT	
BASKETBALL: European Cup: London v Marc-Komet (Hun) (8.0)	
FOOTBALL: Crystal Palace v Sheffield (8.0)	
SNOKER: Grand Prix in Bourg-en-Bresse (8.0)	
SPEEDWAY: War of the Roses Challenger (8.0)	
TALENT: Texaco women's challenge tournament (ie. Cardiff) (8.0)	
FA YOUTH CUP: First qualifying round replay: Northwich v Wrexham (7.45)	
SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools International (ie. Bradford) (8.0)	
INTERNATIONAL: England v West Indies (ie. Bradford) (8.0)	
FOOTBALL: FA Cup Final Trophy: Second round: Bath v (8.0)	

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RACING: OWNER HARBOURS DOUBTS ABOUT MELBOURNE TRIP

# Lehane aware of pitfalls facing Oscar Schindler

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

WHEN Oscar Schindler lines up for the Melbourne Cup on November 5, his owner Oliver Lehane's stomach will be knotted even tighter than usual. Knotted because Lehane is going against his instincts in sending the Irish St Leger winner and Art's third for Australia's greatest race.

After Oscar Schindler strode past the Art finishing post, Lehane's immediate thoughts were of the Breeders' Cup in Toronto, an ideal chance to make his colt an international stallion prospect. He has been persuaded against that by Michael Kinane and his trainer, Kevin Prendergast.

"I was told I was off my head going for the Breeders' Cup but I don't accept that," he said. "Hellsios is not going to Canada and we would have been meeting the same horses as we did in the Arc. Australia is just not of the same significance in stud terms as the Breeders' Cup but I've given in to the pressure as I don't know enough about racing to argue," Lehane said.

Lehane is reluctant to go against his instincts as they have served him well. The

Curragh-based bachelor, 53, is now semi-retired but secure, having started his working life as a bank official. Self-made and a realist, he holds few illusions about racing, especially the difficulties facing the small owner.

"If I got out of horses now I

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David Powell meets a former junior champion for whom tennis is history

## Baily happy with no strings attached

In the week that Tim Henman achieved the highest world ranking by a British male tennis player for 12 years, and Greg Rusedski struck the fastest recorded service on his way to winning the Beijing Open, James Baily did nothing to merit a newspaper headline. Not like three years ago. Not that he cared.

Baily's week started with his first day on a languages degree course at Bristol University which, though not a media event, at least opened a new chapter in his life. "Any regrets?" was the key question to Baily, who abandoned a potentially lucrative and glamorous career in professional tennis, mainly because he feared he was a monomaniac.

His reply, delivered with no more time to think than a service return, was a decisive "no". Other reasons for quitting? "I did not feel I had achieved everything I wanted but I felt stagnated," he said. "I did not want to go through the daily labour of training, strict diet, lack of intellectual stimulation, always early to bed, early up."

In 1993, Baily became the first British boy for 28 years to win a junior grand-slam championship, taking the Australian title in Melbourne. "World beater" was one national headline, "heir apparent" another. Defeating Hen-



year 2000, about his interview on *Sportnight* with Des Lynam, about how Sky News cameras turned up at his home in Cudridge, Hampshire, after his victory in Melbourne to film him on the family tennis court. "I am completely indistinguishable from any other student," Baily said. Proud of it, too.

Baily has not a single racket with him at university, has not even joined the tennis society. "I would rather spend my time doing absolutely anything else," he said. "I have joined the German society, and the Irish society, and I was thinking of joining the Morris dancing club." He gives tennis, and tennis people, hardly a moment's thought.

When was your last tournament? "About August 1994." When was the last time you picked up a racket? "Two or three months ago, at home with my girlfriend." And the last time you went to watch a match? "Oh God [pauses] — over a year ago. I cannot remember who I watched. I think I went for the strawberries and cream and to bump into a few old friends."

The last time you watched tennis on television? "That would have been Henman at Wimbledon."

Ah, Henman at Wimbledon. So, do we hear Baily singing "Could've been me"? No, we do not. Baily insists. "I used to play him a lot," he recalled. "We both started off at the David Lloyd Tennis School and I was in a three-man squad: myself, him and [Jamie] Delgado. I cannot remember losing to him but I must have done."

"I would have expected to beat him all the time but it takes so many other factors [to reach the top] — hard work and the dedication of abstaining from so many aspects of life. It would not have been possible to succeed with my mental attitude."

**S**urely some small regret, when you watched Henman at Wimbledon, that you had not at least stuck at it longer? "I did not even think about it. There was no jealousy or envy, which would have been a sign of regret."

Within weeks of his triumph in Australia, Baily became increasingly aware that he lacked the drive evident in Henman now. He dropped out of tennis in 1994, aged 19. "I had been questioning myself and my future on and off for a year, thinking: 'Am I doing the right thing? Am I a monomaniac?' I thought I was.

"I developed an interest in languages through my years as a tennis player and through my travel. Tennis had been a way of life since the age of 12. I got coaching when I was seven and played my first tournament when I was eight. I only had one shot at life. It was time to try something else.

"I've ever so pleased I have had the experience, particularly



Triumphant in Melbourne in 1993, Baily turned his back on tennis the next year

SIMON BRUTY / ALLSPORT



PAUL WALTERS

### SNOOKER: POLITICAL WRANGLING OVERSHADOWS START OF GRAND PRIX

## Doyle calls for Spencer to stand down

**POLITICAL** in-fighting in professional snooker is hardly a new phenomenon, but even the most staunch supporter of the game's governing body would find it difficult to deny that an unusual swell of dissatisfaction exists at present (Phil Yates writes).

Critics of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), of which there are many, have grown increasingly frustrated over a number of issues, including the ranking system, organisational errors and a lack of sponsorship for two of the premier events on the circuit.

The Grand Prix, the first domestic tournament of the season, which carries a world-ranking point tariff, begins its ten-day run at the Bournemouth International Centre this morning without any corporate financial backing.

In April, when the BBC signed a five-year contract with the WPBSA to cover four events per season, it was generally assumed that the Grand Prix and the United Kingdom championship, which takes place at Preston next month, would be attractive propositions for potential sponsors.

Yet, despite viewing figures which

remain the envy of most sports, and more prime-time programme slots, the total prize-money of £300,000 on offer at the Grand Prix will be drawn from WPBSA coffers.

The WPBSA pleads shortage of time since signing the BBC contract and an unwillingness to sell the events for less than it considers them to be worth. But Ian Doyle, manager of Stephen Hendry, the defending Grand Prix champion, has publicly stated that he believes John Spencer, the WPBSA chairman, should "move over", and that a "proper management structure" should be put in place.

### SQUASH

## Leading contenders slow to find form

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN PETALING JAYA, MALAYSIA

DISAPPOINTMENT in the Perrier World Open Championship last week has obviously left some psychological baggage with the leading contenders. Both Cassandra Jackson of England and Michelle Martin, of Australia, were extended, surprisingly, to five games on the second qualifying day of the world team championship here yesterday.

Jackman, leading the line in an eventual 3-0 win over Holland, played with some authority against Vanessa Alkinson until she reached 6-0 in the second game, having won the first 9-4.

She then seemed to lose interest, triggering a determined attack from the Dutch woman, who lost that game marginally but took the next two on tie breaks, despite an

England match ball at 8-6 in the fourth. Jackman won 9-4, 9-6, 8-10, 8-10, 9-2 in 59 minutes and, with Suzanne Horner and Fiona Geaves both winning, England confirmed their lead in pool B.

Martin, the triple world champion, whose defence was unexpectedly ended in the individual quarter-finals last Friday, yesterday found herself 0-5 down in the fifth game against Claire Nitch, the South African first-string, before stiffening her resolve to get home 9-0, 9-4, 4-9, 9-6.

Sarah FitzGerald, the new world champion, needed just 16 minutes to add the second rubber and Carol Owens contributed the third-string rubber to leave Australia leading pool A.

Results, page 47

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

#### LASTAGE

(a) A toll payable by traders attending fairs and markets, from the medieval Latin *lastagium*. Connected with *last* meaning a commercial demarcation of weight. "That all the citizens of London be quit of toll and lastage."

#### MNA

(a) A unit of weight anciently used in Western Asia, Greece and Egypt. Probably originally a Babylonian word. "The Greeks had a second pound of 16 physical ounces, called the *mna* or *mina*."

#### MATHESIS

(a) Mental discipline, learning or science, especially mathematical science. From the Greek *mathesis* of learning, from the root of *manthdn* to learn. "They can make infinite progress in the infinite fields of mathematics."

#### LYPKIE

(b) A bocce. From the Dutch *lijfken* "corpusculum, subucula, exomis". *Lylly, Euphues* 1579: "Their spots, their lawnes, their leefelies, their ruffles, their rings! Show them rather Cardinals curtsians then modest Matrons."

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